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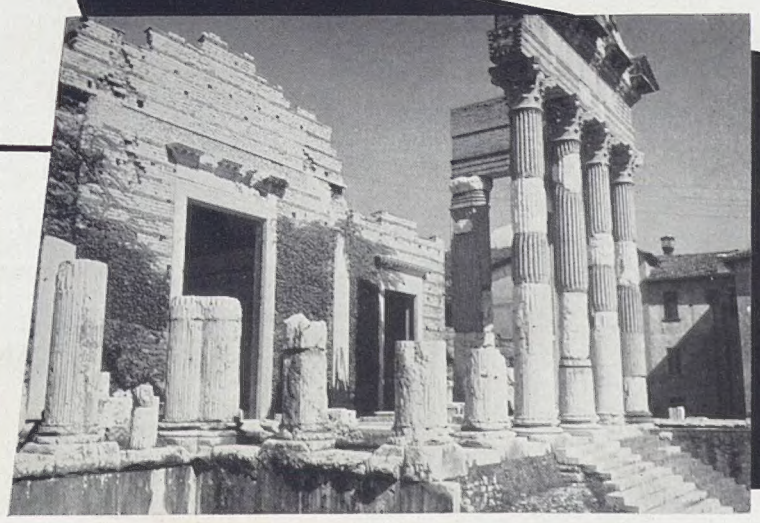

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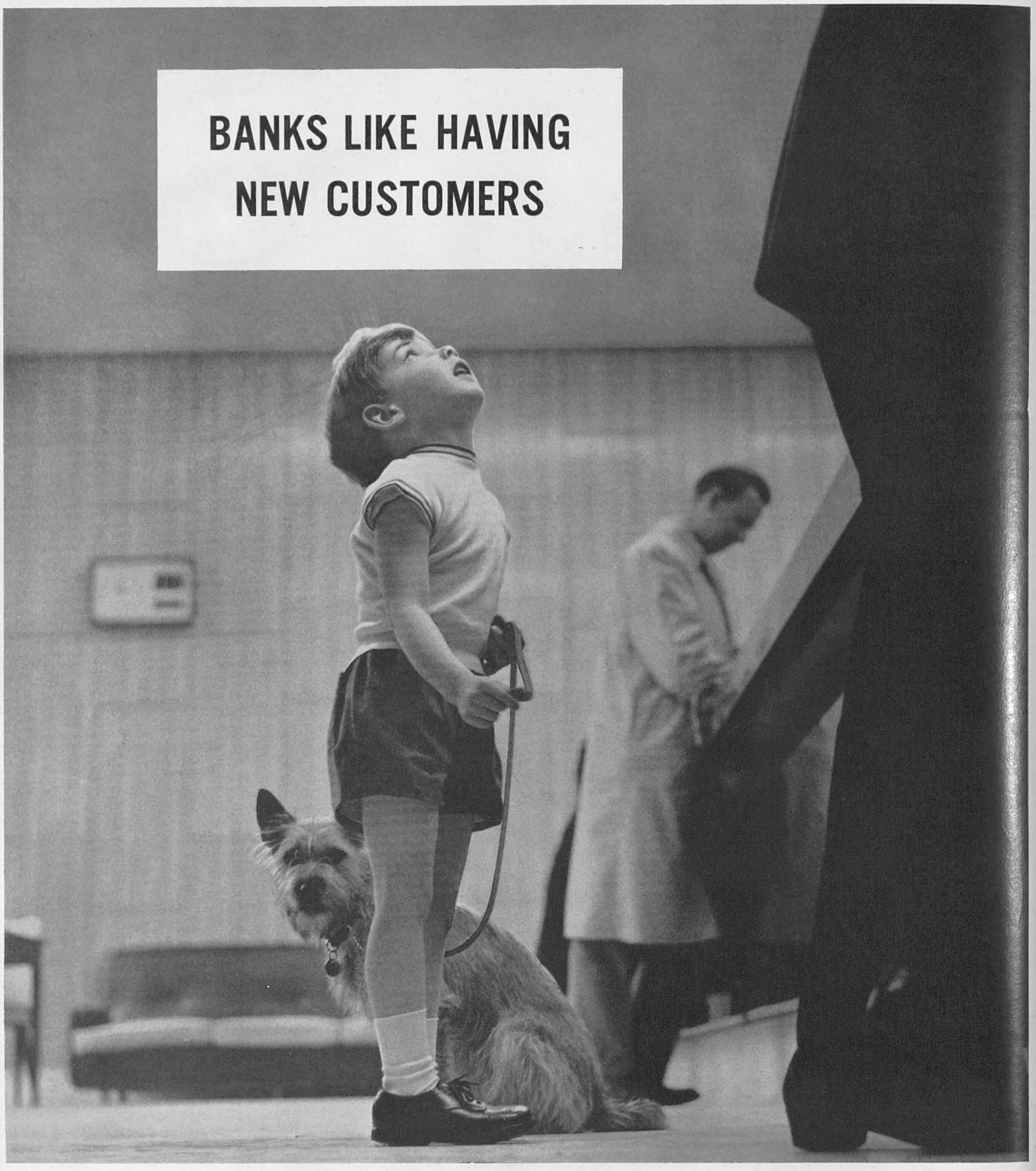

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Volume CCLIII No. 3284

LONDON, May 11, 1963

THE SPHERE

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ANGLO-CANADIAN ACCORD

Mr. Lester Pearson (left), the new Prime Minister of Canada, stands with Mr. Macmillan at Admiralty House in London. Between them is Mr. George Drew, the High Commissioner for Canada in Britain. It was the first visit Mr. Pearson had made outside Canada since he took office last month. During his stay in London he had talks with many political leaders, including Mr. Harold Wilson, the leader of the Opposition, and was invited to the Cabinet to propound Canada's point of view. It was understood that the subjects discussed in Mr. Pearson's various conversations included the chances of achieving a nuclear test ban; the expansion of Anglo-Canadian trade; co-operation in nuclear matters; and foreign affairs, with special reference to NATO. (Dr. Dirk Stikker, the Secretary-General of NATO, made a special trip to London to meet the Canadian Prime Minister.) General satisfaction was expressed regarding the talks in both Canadian and British circles. At the end of this week Mr. Pearson is due to spend two days in Washington for discussions with President Kennedy

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NEWS SUMMARY

Improving the world's health; pointer to Britain's General Election date? race riots in two countries; the threat of war in the Caribbean; trouble for the new UAR

INTERNATIONAL

The World Health Organisation Assembly, due to meet in **Geneva** this week and remain in session until May 24, is being asked to approve some 800 projects in 140 countries in the WHO programme for 1964. The proposed budget of £12,000,000 is up 7½ per cent. on the current year. Representatives of the 118 member states of the WHO will attend the Assembly.

The Ministerial meeting of the EEC opening in **Brussels** on May 8 was expected to bring into the open the fundamental differences between West Germany and France over the Common Market. The former wish for an outward-looking, economically liberal Europe; the latter envisage a protectionist economy.

The future of Commonwealth trade will be discussed in **London** next week at the conference of Commonwealth Trade Ministers.

GREAT BRITAIN

Voting has been taking place this week in local elections in England and Wales. For the 6,022 urban and borough council seats last contested in 1960 there were 12,500 candidates: in the 401 county and non-county boroughs there were 7,910 candidates for 3,504 seats. Voting also took place for 138 rural councils. (There are no elections this year in the 28 London boroughs.) These local elections are a barometer of the possibilities of an early General Election. Three years ago there was a " little landslide " for Conservatives and their candidates, who gained 554 seats. Should the Conservatives hold a majority of these seats, it would be taken as a pointer to a swing towards the Government. Last weekend, however, Mr. L. Williams, General Secretary of the Labour Party, forecast Labour gains of 500 or more seats. One key factor is that there were nearly 2,200 Liberals in the field.

A threat to Labour's chances was the projected anti-Beeching strike by the National Union of Railwaymen next week (May 14, 15 and 16). The NUR at the beginning of this week was almost alone in its determination to strike: other railway unions decided not to support them and Labour Party leaders were making strong efforts to get the NUR executive to put it off.

UNITED STATES

Last weekend racial violence broke out again in **Birmingham,** Alabama, which is reputedly the toughest town in the American South. For three days demonstrations by Negroes against segregation were met by police using high-pressure water hoses and police dogs. Intervention by the Negro leaders in the area restored some sort of order but not before well over 1,500 Negroes had been arrested. It was reported from **Washington** that both President Kennedy and his brother, Mr. Robert Kennedy, the Attorney-General, were deeply concerned, but it appeared that no Federal action could be taken.

LATIN AMERICA

At the beginning of this week, in view of the grave situation on the island of San Domingo, the Organisation of American States called a special emergency meeting at **Punta del Este** in Uruguay and a task force from the U.S. Navy, including the carrier *Boxer* and 2,000 Marines, cruised within 30 miles of the Haitian coast. The island of San Domingo is divided into two states, the Dominican Republic under its President, Senor Bosch, and Haiti under the regime of Dr. Duvalier. Trouble broke out first in Haiti when Dr. Duvalier started to wage war on opposition to him led by Mr. Clermont Barbot, former head of Dr. Duvalier's 10,000-men secret police force, the Tonton Macoute or Bogeymen. A number of refugees fled to the Dominican Embassy in **Port-Au-Prince,** the Haitian capital, which was then attacked. President Bosch moved armed forces to the border between the Republic and Haiti and threatened an invasion if there was further violence against the Dominican embassy or the refugees. Meanwhile, in the atmosphere of violence and terror in Haiti, U.S. and British naval forces moved in the Caribbean to take up positions in case British or American civilians needed to be evacuated from Haiti.

In Rome Communists celebrate both May Day and the Party's electoral successes (see also pages 216-217)

MIDDLE EAST

The future of the United Arab Republic has been jeopardised by the Baath Party in **Syria.** Five pro-Nasser ministers, as a result of what was believed to be Baath pressure, headed by the deputy Premier, Nihad am Qasim, were forced to resign from the Cabinet. At the time President Nasser was on a four-day visit to **Algeria.** In the course of it the Algerian Premier, Mr. Ben-Bella, said he hoped Algeria would join the UAR, but thought unity with Tunisia and Morocco ought to come first.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, announced plans for disengagement on the **Saudi Arabian-Yemeni** border, where there is to be a U.N.-patrolled, 12½-mile buffer zone. Although Saudi Arabia has agreed to stop helping the deposed Imam of Yemen against Marshal Sallal, and the UAR undertake to withdraw the 20,000 troops it has in Yemen, doubts were being expressed early this week whether U.N. observers would be able to work efficiently.

ITALY

Signor Fanfani, the Christian Democrat Prime Minister, suffered a setback in his attempts to present the country with a workable left-of-centre coalition, known as the " opening to the left," in last week's elections. The voting was for both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The most striking feature of the polls was the increase of the Communist share from 22 per cent. to 25 per cent. in contrast to the 4 per cent. decrease suffered by the Christian Democrats and their consequent loss of 13 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. It was taken that Signor Fanfani's reverse was partly to be attributed to a split within his own party.

THE NEWS IN PICTURES

RESIDENT DE GAULLE'S TOUR OF NORTHERN AND NORTH-EASTERN FRANCE

President de Gaulle stops to wish all happiness to two brides and their grooms during the double marriage of twins, Annie and Annette Senepart, at Magny-Fouchard in Northern France. The French President was on his recent tour of Northern and North-Eastern regions of the country. Huge crowds turned out to greet him. Stringent security measures were taken along his route. He returned to Paris last week just before the May Day celebrations. Main political news from the French capital was of the difficulties of the French economy. The Government was preparing to raise a large State loan—the first since 1956—mainly to balance the increased Government expenditure which was incurred in granting widespread wage increases in nationalised industries

MEETING OF THE CENTO MILITARY LEADERS IN TEHERAN

The Shah of Iran (centre), with Chiefs of Staff of the Central Treaty Organisation countries, watches manoeuvres at Aliabad by the Guards division of the Iranian Army and jets of the Iranian Air Force. Military chiefs of Cento (U.S., Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and Great Britain) held the thirteenth meeting of the Cento military committee in Teheran last week. En route for the Cento ministerial council in Karachi, both Lord Home and Mr. Dean Rusk stopped in Teheran for talks with the Shah. One of the chief items in the various Cento discussions was understood to be the recent political developments in the UAR

MEMORIAL SERVICES IN LONDON

Far left: South African veterans march past the Cenotaph in London on a commemorative parade. In the ceremony last Sunday were 400 members of the Springbok Legion of the British Commonwealth and Empire League, who arrived in Britain for a tour of Europe, which is to include the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France

The Duke of Edinburgh and Lord Norrie, President of the Combined Cavalry " Old Comrades " Association, look at wreaths laid during ceremonies in Hyde Park. Prince Philip took the salute at the Association's parade and memorial service last Sunday

Members of the Arab Legion of Jordan take cover in a dug-out during a firing display with live ammunition by the Legion's artillery on the ranges at Zakra, about 30 miles from Amman. The firing was watched by King Hussein and Sharif Husain bin Nasir, the Prime Minister. Indications of the dangerously divided state of Jordanian opinion came from Bagdad last week. Jordanian students claiming to represent the " Republic of Jordan " demonstrated outside the Jordanian embassy and some of them took possession of the building, where they reportedly remained for six hours

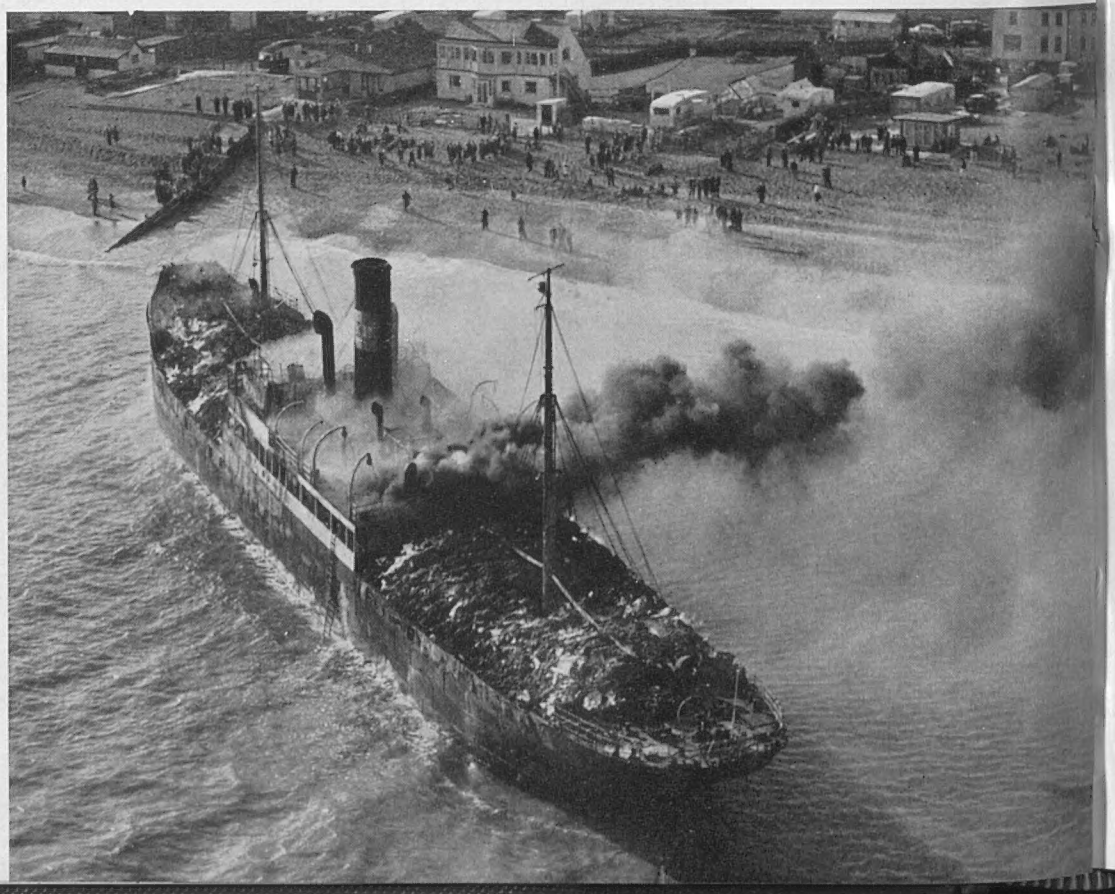
WELL DUG-IN FOR A LIVE ARTILLERY SHOOT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A neutralist soldier leans against one of the ancient moss-covered stones from which the Plain of Jars in Laos takes its name. It was in this region that there was fighting between neutralists and pro-Communist Pathet Lao last month. However, last week Prince Souvanna Phouma, the neutralist Prime Minister, went to Khang Khay, on the Plain of Jars, and met his half-brother, Prince Souphanouvong, who is leader of the Pathet Lao. After the meeting Prince Souvanna said the cease-fire was remaining effective and agreement had been reached in principle for a mixed commission to study ways of ending the tensions between the neutralists and Pathet Lao

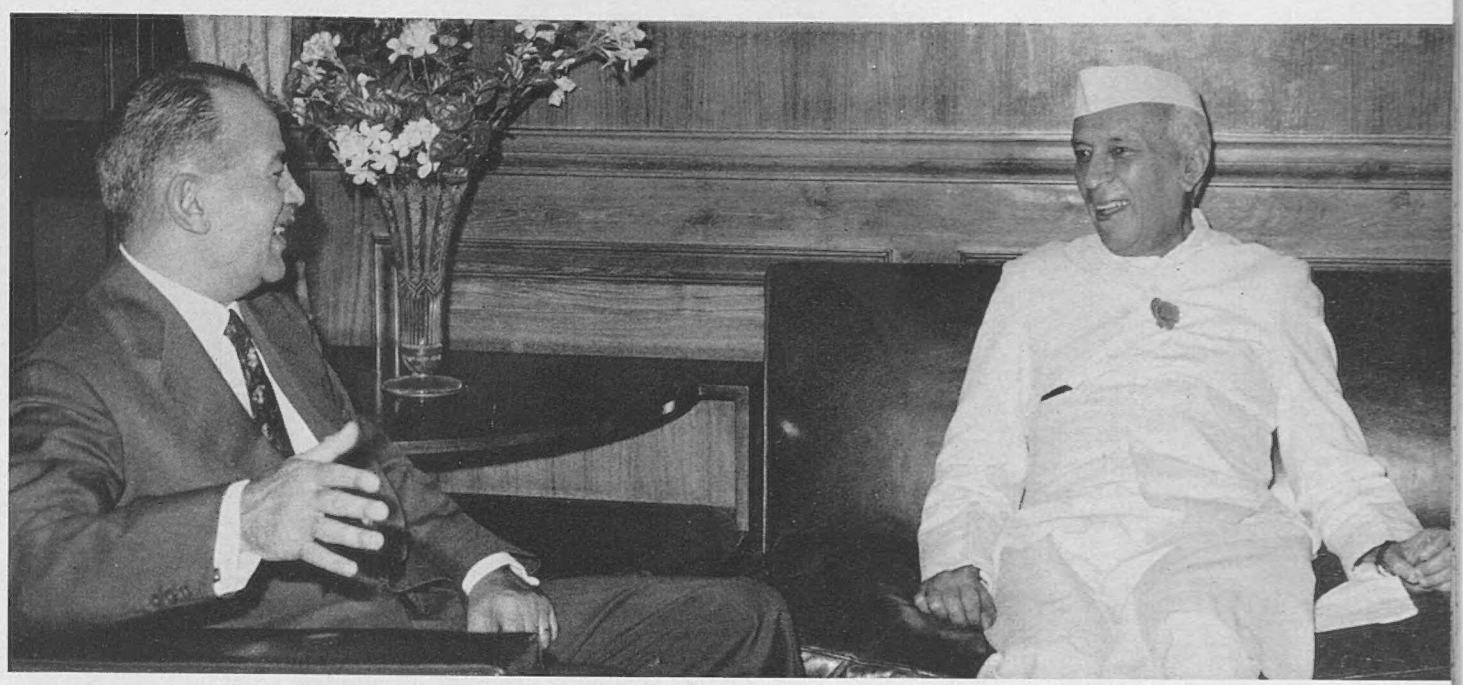
THE REASONS FOR THE NAME OF A FAMILIAR SOUTH EAST ASIAN TROUBLE SPOT—THE PLAIN OF JARS

DISASTERS: LAND AND SEA

Below right: At Normans Bay, Pevensey, Sussex, a Lebanese cargo vessel the *Agos Georgios* blazes from stem to stern, after the crew had abandoned ship. The fire started in a hold loaded with esparto grass. Both the Eastbourne and the Hastings lifeboats were launched to help **Below:** An aerial view of Reynolde Curve, three miles from Port Jervis, New York, after a 91-car freight train had been derailed in heavy rain. Services to New York were held up until the track was cleared



THE NEWS IN PICTURES



UAR MINISTER TRANSMITS CHINESE VIEWS ON THE FRONTIER DISPUTE TO INDIA

In New Delhi, the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, talks with Mr. Ali Sabry, the President of the Executive Council of the UAR. At a press conference last week, Mr. Nehru said that as a result of the confidential discussions he had had with Mr. Sabry, it seemed clear that the Chinese Government were not coming any nearer to accepting the Colombo proposals on the settlement of the Sino-Indian frontier dispute. Earlier Mr. Sabry had been in Peking for talks with the Chinese Government

A NEW WING FOR A LONDON HOSPITAL

The Minister of Health, Mr. Enoch Powell (second from left), and his wife are shown one of the exhibits in the museum department of the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. Mr. Powell last week opened a new wing to the hospital. The wing contains an out-patients department, laboratories for clinical research and a new radiotherapy department

THE RETIREMENT OF SIR PATRICK HENNESSY

Sir Patrick Hennessy retired last week as the Ford Motor Co. Ltd.'s chief executive and became an executive director. He is seen in London with, left, his successor, Mr. Allen Barke, who was managing director of Fords. At the request of Mr. Henry Ford II and other directors, Sir Patrick Hennessy, who is 65, will continue as chairman of the Board. He joined the company nearly 43 years ago

LORD NELSON MAKES A THIRD

Far right: Sir Caspar John (left), First Sea Lord, shakes hands with Admiral Aimar Sorenssen, Commander-in-Chief of the Norwegian Navy, at Admiralty House in London. Behind is the original model of the statue of Lord Nelson on his column in Trafalgar Square, sculpted by E. H. Bailey in the middle of the nineteenth century. Admiral Sorenssen was beginning his official four-day visit to Great Britain last week

SUPER-DESTROYER AT MALTA

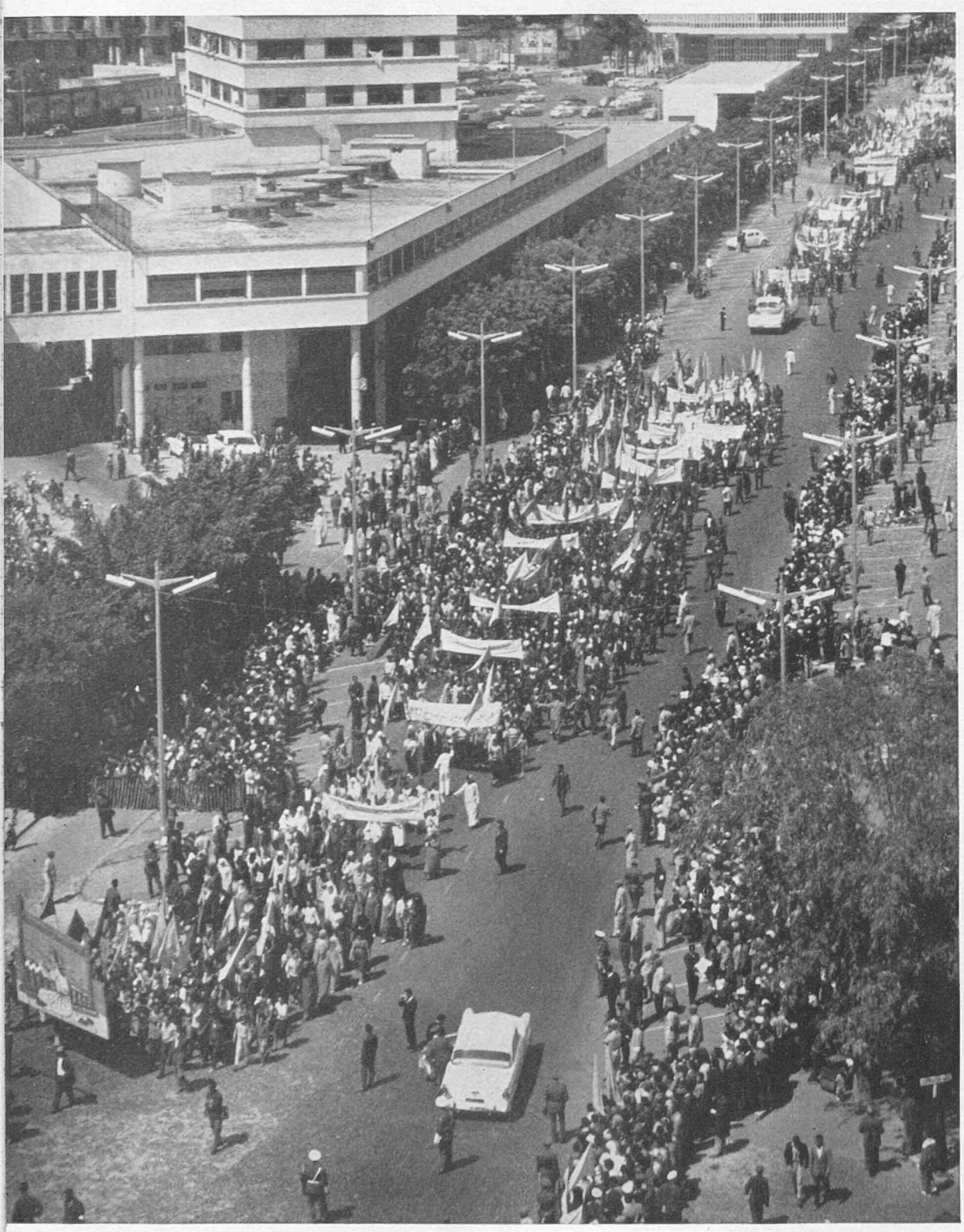
H.M.S. *Devonshire*, the first of the Royal Navy's County Class of guided-missile super-destroyers, arrives in harbour at Malta. Behind the destroyer is Fort Manoel Island, which is due to be evacuated as a naval establishment and used as a site for a huge modern hotel. The *Devonshire* was on exercises in the Mediterranean. Completed last year, she is equipped with Seaslug and Seacat missiles and has combined steam and gas turbine propulsion machinery

Stockholm. Flags of many nations are carried on May Day to demonstrate the need for international friendship

MAY DAY PARADES

May Day was celebrated in the customary manner in many different countries. In the Communist bloc the accent in the parades was on military might rather than real solidarity among workers of the world. In Moscow the absence of Mr. Frol Kozlov, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, caused considerable speculation. Last month he was being widely tipped to succeed Mr. Khrushchev in some of his posts. This week it was officially stated Mr. Kozlov, No. 2 to Mr. Khrushchev, was not at the Moscow parade " because of illness."

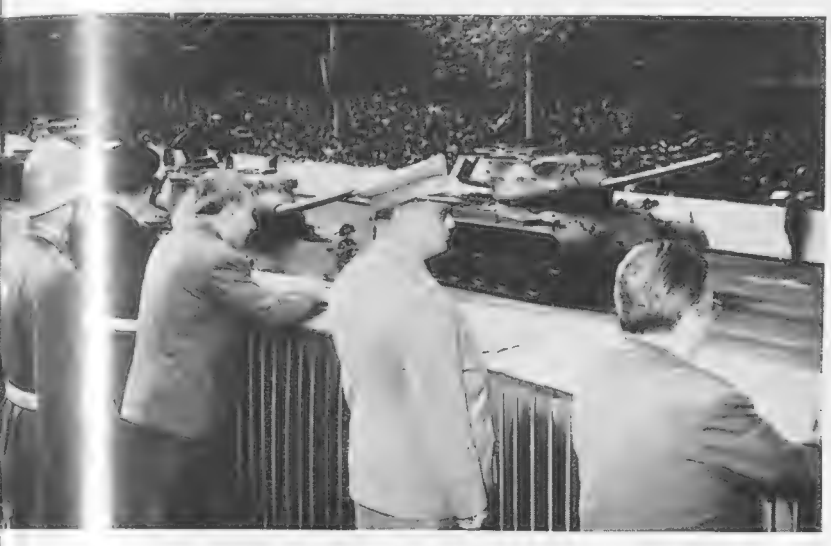
West Berlin. Willi Brandt waves as he arrives to speak



Casablanca. The giant procession organised by the Moroccan workers moves along the Avenue des Forces Royales

East Berlin. A youth group with flags of the East Ger

Warsaw. Mr. Gomulka, Poland's Communist leader, in cheerful mood



lgrade. President Tito and Vice-President Kardelj (right) watch tanks

Democratic Republic marches through the Marx-Engels Platz after the military parade

Moscow. Rockets pass the saluting base on the Lenin Mausoleum (upper left background)

East German soldiers goose-step in the military parade in East Berlin

JOHN CONNELL

THE ENIGMA OF THE KREMLIN

Lately, I have been reading lives of some of the earlier Romanov sovereigns. The more one discovers about Russian history, the more clearly one sees the emergence of certain patterns of relationship, between the governors and the governed, and between Russia and the outside world, which have persisted through revolution and apparently cataclysmic change. Surely, I have found myself reflecting, if history is our guide, we need not find it too difficult to interpret the shifts and veerings —occasionally the somersaults—of Russian policy, external as well as internal; but I have to admit that this is not so. Kremlinology remains the most occult, as well as the most accident-prone, of modern arts of political and strategic divination.

The closest analogy to its practitioners' performance of their extremely difficult task is, in another field of human activity, that of the popular newspapers' racing tipsters. It is perhaps no blind accident that the *Daily Worker's* day-by-day hints from the course are regarded with the utmost respect by many who would deny, truthfully and in the most shocked tones, any sympathy with the doctrines the paper preaches.

This not wholly frivolous observation is the outcome—or one aspect of the outcome—of having watched the latest, quite elaborate and technically very interesting display of Kremlin prophecy. The field has been very open; there have been many tumbles, but all the most experienced performers have been able to get over the great Beecher's Brook question of Mr. Khrushchev's retirement or non-retirement. For several weeks past there have been guarded but insistent rumours that there is some major internal crisis brewing in the Kremlin, that a Stalinist and pro-Mao

Dr. Castro (left) and Mr. Khrushchev at the May Day parade in Red Square, Moscow

faction is growing in strength, and that Mr. Khrushchev's authority has been waning. The more expert—or the more reckless—of the crystal-gazers have been canvassing names. But who, 11 years ago, when Stalin was nearing his end, would have dared to say firmly that Nikita Khrushchev would finally consolidate himself in a position as powerful as Uncle Joe's ?

The uffish tone of diplomatic exchanges between Moscow and Pekin—" You come into my parlour," " No, I insist, you come into mine," " After you, Comrade," " Pray, Comrade, *you* first "—though not without its hidden inflexions of demure hilarity, certainly gave pace and pith to the speculations. Then an impressive British group visit to the Soviet Union, arranged for the Easter recess by the shrewd and indefatigable Mr. Christopher Mayhew, was suddenly put off at very short notice. Everybody was very polite and very understanding. However, one friend of mine, who was going, was so chagrined that he instantly retired to one of those costly country houses where you pay vast sums to be starved; he is now existing on a diet of orange juice and thinking about writing our generation's *War And Peace*. In his view, storm cones were out above the Kremlin.

He may well have been right; but Mr. Khrushchev seems for the time being at any rate to have weathered the storm. Relations with the Chinese remain as tetchy as ever; some method of disengaging in Laos, while (as is the invariable Communist practice) retaining as many territorial and political advantages as possible, is still being sought; and, so far as pretty lynx-eyed observers can detect, Mr. Khrushchev has shown, with a good deal of vigour, that he is still the boss.

Three separate facets of Russian policy—and thus of Mr. Khrushchev's responsibility for it—have interested Western Kremlinologists. The first is the extent to which Soviet internal policy is under stress; is there, in fact, an agricultural or an industrial crisis in the offing, and if so how serious is it ? What is the real price, in terms of sacrifice and of diversion of the greater part of the Gross National Product to one single purpose, that is now being paid and must go on being paid for the race into space? Is the desire to plant the Soviet flag first on the moon (to say nothing of all the attendant expense on various forms of military hardware) cutting more deeply and dangerously across other aspirations, which are now seeping up in the Russian people, than until recently had been suspected?

All is certainly not well with Soviet agriculture. There is a very suspicious vagueness about the ritual proclamation of targets, and about the very few announcements that targets have been reached. The juggling with percentages—I am not, I am sure, the only unstatistically minded political commentator who is obsessed by the simple question, " percentage of what ? "—has been more than usually disingenuous. And on the industrial side of the Soviet economy the setbacks have been so widespread and so notorious that Mr. Khrushchev found it necessary himself to deliver an oration on this theme—some 20,000 words of it were reproduced in *Pravda* and elsewhere—to production experts at a conference in the last week in April.

He denied that there was a crisis in the country's economy, but then proceeded to deliver some pretty pungent attacks on weak spots in that economy—the chemical industry, for example, civil engineering (in which, he said, there were " gigantic losses ") and the arms industry whose tasks could be carried out " more successfully and less expensively." There was a tantalising passage about individuals living on a grand scale without apparently being employed anywhere—the picture of " idle rich " lolling about in the Soviet Union must be a trifle shocking to Communists and fellow-travellers on this side of the Iron Curtain.

Writers—Mr. Khrushchev is out after decadent culture with the biggest of his armoury of hatchets—came in for a tremendous tirade, especially writers who go abroad and then sigh for wonderful America " where they make better panties than ours. Give us time," he said, " and we shall produce panties for your wives in colours which cannot be seen anywhere else." I unhesitatingly accept Reuter's assertion that this sentence was greeted with laughter and stormy applause; but to me it seems one of the crudest examples of Mr. Khrushchev's ripe, folksy and thunderously boring humour.

However, he has lost none of his wiliness, for into this vast splurge of oratory he managed to insert the two seemingly casual references to his own future (" I cannot hold my position for all time," and " I am, so to say, of pensionable age ") which set Western forecasters in such a whirl of excitement. Was he smoothly turning the key in the backdoor, to give himself, if he should require it in a hurry, a reasonably safe and reasonably dignified get-out ? I don't pretend to be able to give a firm answer to my own question; I only know that I heard Mr. Averell Harriman say, when he passed through London on his way back to Washington from Moscow, that he had found Mr. Khrushchev in full vigour and in full command.

Mr. Harriman also made it clear, while he was in London, that he had been to some extent encouraged by the Soviet leader's attitude to the Laos issue, with which I dealt on this page last week. Their joint communiqué, it will be recalled, reaffirmed that both the USA and the USSR support the Geneva agreement on Laos, explicitly stating that it should remain independent and neutral. Thousands of miles from Moscow, on the " front " itself, an uneasy ceasefire was being maintained at the end of April and beginning of May. Does this mean, as *The Times* Diplomatic Correspondent appeared to hope, that Soviet influence and Chinese caution are together sufficiently strong to bring about some kind of settlement, along the lines of the Geneva agreement ?

The third strand in present Soviet policy which has attracted Western interest (and not a little anxiety) has been Dr. Castro's sudden and spectacular visit to Russia. Did many people, I wonder, remark on the curious contrast between the glorious welcome given to the Cuban dictator and the perfunctory, snubbing, take-it-or-leave-it attitude of the Kremlin and its servants towards Mr. Harriman ? It is true that Dr. Castro is at present proving a very costly investment for the Russians—the next most expensive item in their overseas portfolio is almost certainly President Nasser's account—and that to give him a big hug and the full VIP treatment is a relatively cheap way of hinting that some concrete returns on all they have spent, other than American exasperation at the fact of a Soviet presence in the Caribbean, would be welcome. But it seems unlikely that Mr. Khrushchev, after his painfully enlightening discovery last autumn that when the U.S. Government says " stop " it means " stop," will risk trying to exploit his Cuban satellite up to or over the edge of provoking America.

Mr. Harriman, when he returned to Washington early last week, had classified his impressions of Mr. Khrushchev's staying power. He seems to have confirmed the opinions of others in President Kennedy's inner circle of advisers on USA/USSR relations that the Russian leader is not going to step down either as President-Prime Minister of the Soviet Union or as Secretary-General of the Communist Party. The second post, as Stalin proved long ago, is the most important; if and when he concedes that, it will certainly put the whole array of Kremlinologists into a tremendous flurry, and the rest of us will have to clamp our hats firmly on our heads and prepare for turbulent weather.

Sir Winston Churchill leaves his London home to attend the annual dinner of the Royal Academy at Burlington House. On the same day he announced he would not be standing for Parliament at the next General Election. He gave the news in a letter to the chairman of the Conservative Association of his constituency, Woodford, in Essex. He spoke of his great sadness in taking this step but said his accident last year had greatly decreased his mobility. Sir Winston, who is 88 and Father of the House, fought his first Parliamentary contest in 1899 and entered the Commons as Conservative MP for Oldham in 1900. Except for a short break in the 1920s he has been an MP ever since. He sat for N.W. Manchester from 1906-08 and for Dundee from 1908-22. In 1924, he was returned by Epping, remaining member there until 1945, when as a result of boundary revisions he was elected for Woodford. His decision to withdraw from Parliament will seem to many the end of an epoch

THE END OF AN EPOCH

At Lyme Regis, tons of cliff-face fell into the sea during the bad weather. Bulldozers and drag buckets are now being used to clear the beaches for the summer season

In Kensington in London the demolition is in progress on the old Imperial Institute which has been replaced by the new Commonwealth Institute in nearby Holland Park. The Queen's Tower, in centre background, is to remain. The Imperial Institute was erected between 1887 and 1893, as the national memorial for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee

A London Newsletter

13-15, JOHN ADAM STREET, W.C.2.

"ON AN UNKNOWN DATE." Double size postage stamps may be struck to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare next year. This first son and third child of John Shakespeare of Stratford and Mary (Arden), his wife, is generally assumed to be the author of "Shakespeare"; and rightly so, I think. He has never yet been commemorated by the Post Office and it will be very interesting if, after 400 years, the date of his birth is officially "accepted" as April 23, 1564—of which there is no shadow of evidence. Poetic licence has for centuries chosen April 23 because on that date he died in 1616, and I suppose no one can blame the Stratford authorities for taking that poetic and profitable licence. We know from parish registers at Stratford that he was baptised on April 26, 1564, but that information does nothing to fix his birthday. If you look into Burke's *Landed Gentry* under "*Hart, formerly Shakespeare*," you will find a delightful reference to this William Shakespeare, "the Dramatist of New Place." You will observe that the editors were careful not to give any date in April for his birth. They make do with his date of baptism. Very properly, that authoritative book of reference relies only on proven facts. The Baconians and *hoc genus omne* might of course claim that the editors took a liberty in describing him as "the Dramatist"; and perhaps it would be best for the Post Office and for all of us to play up the 400th anniversary in vaguer terms and simply commemorate the birth of William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon without an exact date or indeed supplying an exact place of birth (for that, too, is speculative). Most of us will know *whom* we are commemorating. April 23 already belongs to St. George, and remembers Zeebrugge, and (quite correctly) Shakespeare's death.

NIC SUGGESTS. . . . The National Incomes Commission has issued its first report. It is a learned body which has a brain and a tongue but no teeth. It can certainly influence the policy of the Chancellor but has very much less influence on the policy of the TUC, which at present regards NIC as a talking shop. While that attitude of the TUC remains, it seems aimless to ask whether the Commission's arguments will sway *public* opinion. Its main item of "business done" was a condemnation of the Scottish plumbers and builders' agreement for a 40-hour week, equivalent in NIC's view to a nine per cent. wage increase this year (with nation-wide implications of similar demands from other trades); its suggested compromise is the agreement should be regarded as an advance wage increase covering three years, which works out at one per cent. over the Chancellor's recent 2½ per cent. ceiling. Secondly, it questions, if not condemns, the accepted method of collective bargaining, as a means of settling wage increases, as no longer serving the public interest, since it increasingly ventilates the interests of the contending sides in industry. Public opinion is certainly swayed by the argument that the unions are too apt to exploit their bargaining power and employers to "buy" industrial peace at any cost. But it is difficult to see what pressure public opinion can exert on the trades unions or on a single "condemned" industry as long as NIC is regarded by either as a mere talking-shop or an arbitrator which hears only one side of a case. Mr. Woodcock's contemptuous rejection of this first report certainly does not encourage hope that for some time to come the unions will alter their opinion of NIC's usefulness or will combine with the Government to furnish it with the set of dentures which it so much needs.

THE PSALMS IN HUMAN LIFE. A Commission, appointed in 1958 by the Archbishops, has proposed some revisions in the Psalms (now published) and if these alterations are approved by the Convocations in the autumn, legislative action may be sought to permit their use in our churches. Most churchgoers would say "Hands off the Psalms." Many have already been "up in arms." Even where their meaning is obscure or too vindictive, the music of their poetry is jealously loved and comforting. The Psalms have time out of mind inspired and comforted human beings, and if Lord Ernle made rather a dull book under his title *The Psalms in Human Life* (1903), he certainly acknowledged humanity's debt to them. The Commission had no desire or design to write a modern version. It set out to "invisibly mend them," but some of the mending is all too visible for traditionalists. We most of us, for example, fear death and many must have derived transient comfort from that verse in Psalm 23: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. . . ." The Commission's amendment "through the darkest valley" (no doubt justifiable as exact translation) here does more than knock the poetry out of the phrase.

TIMELESS. It knocks for six a timeless, universal imagery which, whether justified or not as translation, is a treasure; and tampering with it is unwise. One might as usefully "improve" on "Magic casements opening on the foam of perilous seas, in faerylands forlorn." Poets are painters, not photographers; and to argue that the revision makes the verse easier to sing is specious. Commissions should leave the Psalms alone. They would be better employed with sickles and axes slashing the hymnal of its

Queen and Prince Philip talk to students at Cirencester Agricultural College, in Gloucestershire. The Royal visit took place last week

:gerel and drag; and leaving us a bare 100 ...ns composed by poets which churchgoers ... sing without distaste.

ALAS, POOR MOBY DICK. I was r..ding *South of Cape Horn* by Commander C..isp, first published in 1958 (a very interesting a..count of large-scale Antarctic whaling), when my eye caught a newspaper paragraph which was a heart-cry from the Norwegian whaling industry now threatened with total collapse, not because whale oil and other products are no longer in demand, but because the stock of whales has been decimated by reckless over-killing. Above all, the mighty blue whale—largest of all animals which attains to 120 tons weight and 100 ft. in length. Processed, it is worth about £30 a foot. This book deals with the fishing expedition of a factory ship and its satellites, which, starting from Tyneside, was 178 days at sea, steamed 26,500 miles, shot 2,000 whales and earned for its owners £4,000,000. The mighty and harmless blue whale is not only the largest but the most valuable animal alive. It may be worth £2,000 a carcase. The fin, the sperm, the sei, the humpback and other killable species, are small fry compared with the blue. And that great prize has been nearly brought to extinction over the last decade by the over-generous and short-sighted regulations of the industry. The blue whale is not the only creature to be brought near extinction through greed or myopia and sheer lack of commonsense and restraint.

A "TOKEN" STRIKE. By three to one the NUR on April 24 voted for a three-day railway strike—virtually a working week hold-up of vital transport. Let us hope that wiser counsels may still avert this insensate folly. But no one should minimise the causes of bitterness which make up the railwaymen's case. As in a majority of obstinate major industrial disputes, memories of century-old injustice and harsh dealing live on among railwaymen, handed down from father to son, and the sins of the fathers and great-grandfathers of management are chalked up against the living, so that the bitternesses of the first industrial revolution are merged with the difficulties of the new. Obviously, the Beeching Plan implies great hardship for many thousands of railwaymen, despite all the guaranteed efforts to guide and adequately to support them in transition to other jobs. But many must be uprooted in the process. Tear up their roots, leave their friends and find accommodation in areas where housing prospects are poor and inadequate. Certainly, too, there is force in the argument that it is madness to press on with the railway axe until an exhaustive inquiry has been made and can satisfy the nation that the roads can take the overspill. But the railwaymen cannot complain that they are being thrown out without notice. Not a man will lose his *present* job for 16 months or more, and in 16 months much can happen, not only in the building of houses, but in the planning and easing of the transfer to other jobs in the industry itself; the NUR has the assurance that its members will be cared for financially even beyond that period. Many of those members acknowledge the sheer logic and urgency of modernising rail transport. The NUR's decision to strike is an ivory-tower decision, which makes modernisation impossible. The time for strike action is in the autumn of 1964 if by that time the majority of the NUR's fears and grievances have not been cleared away.

THE OLD STAGER

Students take pictures while the Queen plants a tree at Cirencester Agricultural College

ENTERTAINMENT

The theatre is a world of dreams made real by achievement. One of the most remarkable feats of recent years has been the growth of the Royal Shakespeare Company, built on the strong traditions of the Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon, into a permanent company with two homes (with a third to come) and the strength to mount touring productions of extremely high quality. By a slight stretch of the imagination, it is possible to see the production by Peter Hall of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as symbolising the aims and achievement of the company. It was first mounted in 1959, revived last year, and has now been re-set with a largely new cast. All this time, the production, initially a *tour de force*, has been revised and improved by the director until it spells out an original, brilliant interpretation, which is not only enchanting but has also altered the critic's view of the play. By altering the emphasis on the three elements —the interacting worlds of fairies, lovers and mechanicals—the play has been fused into a golden, richly magic organic whole.

In the key role of Titania will be Juliet Mills, making both her début in Shakespeare and her début with the company. (It was in the same play, back in 1939, that John Mills, her father, made his Shakespearean début, as Puck.) Subsequently, after the tour, the production will come to rest in the Royal Shakespeare's London home, the Aldwych. It should be mentioned finally that *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is being given in repertory on the tour with the London production of Dürrenmatt's black comedy *The Physicists*.

Quince the Prologue (Tony Church) with Bottom (Paul Hardwick) and Flute (Ian Hewtison)

The Royal Shakespeare Company at the King's, Edinburgh, from May 14-18; Theatre Royal, Newcastle, from May 20-25; Alhambra, Bradford, May 27 to June 1, and the Royal Opera House, Manchester, June 3-8, as . . .

THE DREAM GOES NORTH ON TOUR

Puck (Michael Williams) pops up beside Bottom, leading his companions in rehearsal

Bottom—" thou art translated "

Theseus (Tony Steedman) and Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons (Rosemary Frankau)

Puck triumphant

Love is blind for Titania (Juliet Mills) as she kisses the "marvellous hairy" Bottom. Juliet Mills is making her Shakespearean début

Pictures by Reg Wilson

Left: "New in amity"—Oberon (Ian Richardson) and Titania. **Above:** The Queen of the Fairies is lulled by song

Helena (Diana Rigg) and Demetrius (Barry MacGregor). **Below:** Hermia (Ann Beach), Lysander (Brian Murray)

New Zealand House on the site of the old Carlton Hotel and next to Her Majesty's Theatre in the Haymarket

The old New Zealand House in the Strand. The photo graph was taken soon after it was completed in 191

Inside the penthouse at the top of the new building

The Voice of the Commonwealth

LANDMARK NEAR PICCADILLY

A new landmark in the centre of London—a matter of a few hundred yards from Piccadilly Circus—is the new New Zealand House, formally opened by the Queen this week on May 9. The striking glass and concrete building at the corner of Haymarket and Pall Mall is 225 ft. high and dominates its surroundings. It consists of two main elements, a lower or podium block and a tower block arising from within the podium.

On the ground floor near the entrance is the visitors' lounge and at mezzanine level there is a newspaper gallery with reading desks and writing tables. Visitors will also want to go to the top of the building, which has a penthouse surrounded on all four sides by a viewing terrace giving some of the finest and most extensive panoramic views to be obtained in London.

The offices of the High Commissioner and his Deputy are on the third floor and look onto a wide terrace along the Pall Mall frontage. On this floor are also the L-shaped library, able to house 20,000 volumes, and one of the small internal courtyards planted with New Zealand shrubs which are a feature of the building.

Furniture has come from Britain and from Scandinavia, panelling from New Zealand and Scandinavia. New Zealand artists have contributed to the decorations. John Hutton, who recently carried out extensive work in Coventry Cathedral, has engraved two large glass panels for each side of the Haymarket entrance doors, one depicting New Zealand flora and birds, the other including the New Zealand coat of arms. John Drawbridge, who is establishing a considerable reputation in London and Paris, has painted an abstract mural panel 50 ft. long for the reception hall. Inia te Wiata, the New Zealand operatic bass, who is also an accomplished Maori wood carver, will in due course carve tribal figures of Maoris on a tree trunk 45 ft. high and 3 ft. in diameter. It will stand in the entrance hall. A totara tree has been specially felled in New Zealand for this carving.

One of the most impressive features of the building is in the basement where the heating and air conditioning plants are situated. Vast boilers and other necessary equipment give the impression of a ship's engine room and are a reminder of how much is done " behind the scenes " to make modern office conditions as comfortable as possible.

The new New Zealand House is the fourth building to be occupied by New Zealand's representatives in Britain in the course of more than a century. In January 1860, John Morrison was appointed Government Agent in London for the Colony. He had offices at 3 Adelaide Place, King William Street, in the City of London and was paid a salary of £600. Morrison's appointment was the consequence of the establishment of responsible government in New Zealand in the mid 1850s. The Government Agent became Agent-General in 1870, the first holder of the office being I. E. Featherston. The post was raised to the status of High Commissioner under an Act of 1904, the first being W. Pember Reeves. By that time the New Zealand offices were in Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street.

The first entry in the files available in Britain is dated January 9, 1878 and is a request from an English firm building tramcars for Wellington for a copy of the New Zealand coat of arms so that it could be painted on the vehicles destined for the capital. The reply stated that New Zealand did not have a coat of arms but added that it did have an official seal. This

The office of the High Commissioner

A spiral staircase down to the reception hall

The view to Trafalgar Square from the terrace outside the High Commissioner's office

showed a missionary clergyman and a Maori standing on each side of an altar. The inscription described the country as the "Islands of New Zealand." In the ensuing years the files show further requests for information about the coat of arms but it was not until 1911 that New Zealand decided on one, which remains substantially the same today.

The year 1911 was important for the New Zealand representation in Britain in two other respects. It is the date by which it can be definitely established that New Zealand House had its own typewriter, although there are occasional typewritten letters on the file from 1897. And in 1911 began a long correspondence regarding new quarters for the High Commissioner. Eventually premises were bought in the Strand for demolition so that the first New Zealand House could be built on the site. In the middle of 1914 King George V agreed to lay the foundation stone, a tentative date being fixed for February in the following year. A gold trowel with a greenstone handle was made for use by the King at the ceremony. Greenstone is a form of jade found in New Zealand and arrangements were also made to ship a block of it to form the foundation stone itself.

However, the outbreak of war intervened and the King ruled that ceremonies such as laying of foundation stones were out of place during the hostilities. Not the least disappointed must have been the company which had applied for permission to "take cinematograph pictures" of the Royal ceremony. The foundation stone was laid in an unobtrusive and simple manner by the then High Commissioner, Sir Thomas Mackenzie, on November 3, 1915.

There were delays because of the war and other troubles during the building. On one occasion the painters complained they were not being paid by the contractors the standard rate per hour laid down by the Board of Trade. The High Commissioner immediately told the contractors they must pay this standard wage.

It had been hoped that the war would be over before the building was completed in March 1916 and that the King would be able to perform the opening ceremony. Such hopes were not to be fulfilled. Therefore, the presence of King George V's grand-daughter to open the new New Zealand House this week will have special significance to New Zealanders.

CHARLES DIMONT

The reception area, in foreground, and the main entrance hall

THE BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATIVE CLUB

Drawings by **Geoffrey S. Fletcher**

The Birmingham Conservative Club has been in its premises in Temple Row for 77 years. Next December it is to move to a new modern home in New Street, in a building being erected on what is known as the Colonnade Site, formerly occupied by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. The club will occupy the two top floors and half of the mezzanine floor. The Temple Row house is to be demolished to make way for another development scheme which is changing Birmingham.

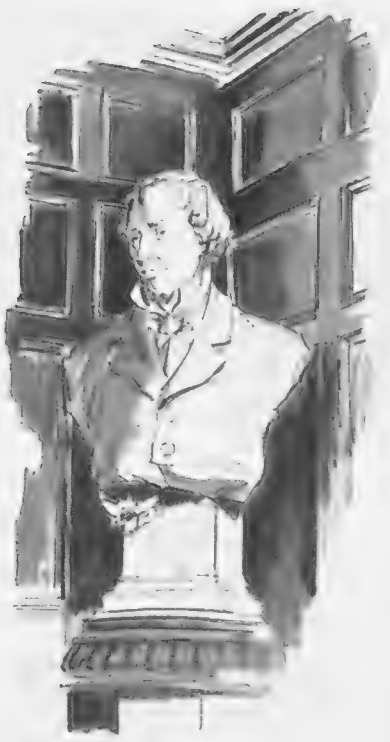
The move in December will take the club to its third premises in its 91 years of existence. The number of members now exceeds 400. Very close ties are maintained with the Birmingham Conservative Association and with the West Midlands Conservative Association. Private political dinners and, more recently, political luncheons, are held at which ministers answer questions.

Historically, the Conservative Club derives from a much older club, the Bean Club, which is over 300 years old and holds its biennial dinners within the Conservative Club.

The origins of the Bean Club were related in an article in *Birmingham Places and Faces* to mark the move of the Conservatives to Temple Row in 1886. At its start it seems to have been a Jacobite association. " Its ostensible *raison d'etre* was the consumption of beans and bacon at certain times by gentlemen who gathered in Birmingham periodically from the country round for that purpose."

Bean Club members were among the Conservative gentlemen who met in May 1871 to consider the feasibility "of establishing a central Club which by offering means of social intercourse and a meeting place for men of Conservative sympathies, should consolidate the leaders of the party and enable them to become better acquainted by one another, and with the needs and resources of their political friends in the Midlands."

By the autumn " 114 noblemen and gentlemen " had indicated their wish to join the club. Fears that the use of the word Conservative in its name might lead to violence by political opponents against the club's members and property were overruled. Justifiably so, for in the event neither heads nor windows were damaged. The club's inaugural dinner took place in July 1872. Lord Dartmouth was the first president.



The bust of Disraeli in the hall

Within a few years expanding numbers led to the move to Temple Row. But wherever its premises may be, there can be no fitter description of the Birmingham Conservative Club than that given to it by the writer in *Birmingham Faces and Places* over 70 years ago. " It is an admirably managed, prosperous and thoroughly sociable Constitutional institution, and compares favourably in all particulars with the best London clubs of similar standing."

The committee room. Through the window can be seen the cupola of Birmingham Cathedral (formerly St. Philip's Church) designed by Wren's assistant, Thomas Archer

The entrance hall and staircase with stained glass windows in the late Victorian building in Temple Row which is soon to be demolished

BRIAN VESEY-FITZGERALD

BIRMINGHAM AND BEYOND

I have to go to Birmingham perhaps four or five times a year. The job I have to do there takes only four or five hours all told, but as this is spread over a couple of days it means that I always have a good deal of time in Birmingham with nothing particular to do. What does one do in Birmingham? Well, the answer to that, so far as I am concerned, is: get out. And this, if you do not use a car, is easy to do. I have never found Birmingham easy to leave by car: no doubt the " one-way street " system is simple to decipher for the native, but for the stranger it is about as simple as Hampton Court Maze.

Birmingham, I find, is an excellent centre for exploring much of mid-west England. Strangely enough, the west midlands are under-explored. Of course, there are the recognised " beauty spots," the recognised tourist centres: the Shakespeare country, Henley-in-Arden, the Malverns, even Bewdley (which, with a coat of paint, could be one of the most beautiful places in England). These places are well served from Birmingham by one of the most efficient bus services in Britain. But I for one avoid them: I am not altogether enamoured of tourist centres. I find Stratford-on-Avon, for example, too commercialised at any season of the year. But tourist centres well served by public transport do take the crowds and leave the real country empty, to be explored at leisure. And there is some of the best real country in Britain within easy reach of Birmingham, within 15 miles or so.

It should never be forgotten that, with the exception of some of the beauty spots, the British landscape is man-made. Its history can be summed up in six words: axe, crook, scythe, plough and billhook. In other words, what made the countryside was a multitude of crafts contained within one major craft, agriculture. And real country, even today, is country that is worked. Of course, there is plenty of that in Britain. But the country near Birmingham stands out because it is an area well endowed by nature and yet entirely adapted by man, displaying all his skill. Also because it is close to a great and successful centre of industry and commerce. This is important because it has meant that the successful in industry and commerce have stayed nearby and so enriched their neighbourhood by splendid building and enlightened cultivation.

If I were to take a stranger to England, one brought to Birmingham by business and with but little time to spare, to see real English country, then I would take him to Feckenham Forest. He would have his first surprise at once, for Feckenham Forest no longer exists—at one time it stretched from the Stour to Arden and from Worcester to Bromsgrove—and, indeed, I think that even the name has now fallen into disuse. But this is still " deep " country, well wooded, with many spinneys and a wealth of hedgerow oaks and elms. It is not a countryside of obvious charms and there are few wide prospects: it is just quiet, unfrequented, country. You might be 200 miles from a great industrial centre. And the local speech emphasises the illusory sense of distance.

The Birmingham accent, clipped, with discordant nasal vowel sounds, without inflection or modulation, reaches as far as Redditch. Walk a mile or two south or west of Redditch and, suddenly, the speech is rural: slow, rhythmical, with rich sonorous vowels. So untouched by urbanism, so untouched even by BBC English, and yet so varied is this speech that I believe that anyone with a really intimate knowledge of the district can tell after a moment or two of conversation from which village in the Feckenham area a man comes.

I suppose that this small stretch of country on Birmingham's doorstep has remained inviolate because it is crossed by only one main road: that from Worcester to Alcester and Stratford-on-Avon. This is a fast road, and the cars stick to it. Get off it, on either side, and you are in a maze of narrow, twisting, country lanes, which often degenerate into mere cart-tracks, and innumerable little villages, apparently scattered at random. Almost every one is worth more than a casual visit: and that is true, too, of almost all the churches and manor houses.

To list them all would be to compile a catalogue: to choose between them is invidious. But Rous Lench church, much of the Norman building remaining, is outstanding and the interior magnificent. The carved and gilded Jacobean chairs are unusual enough for a village church, but it is quite astonishing to find a processional cross of beaten gold. This, it is said, was used at the coronation of Elizabeth I: and I can well believe it. For the rest, the names speak for themselves: Abbots Morton, Flyford Flavell, Inkberrow, Naunton Beauchamp, Peopleton, North Piddle, Upton Snodsbury, Throckmorton. A favourite of mine is the little hamlet of Dormston with its timbered bellcote, dovecote and magnificent Moat Farm. And, of course, nobody should leave this area without visiting Huddington with its cruck house (the earliest form of timber construction) and a church with a beautiful fifteenth-century oak porch and some lovely linenfold panelling.

There is a wealth of timberwork in these little villages. If the Forest has long since disappeared, you can tell from a glance at these villages that this was once forest country. It is " black-and-white country." White cottages, black timbers, a wealth of thatch: so that, seeing them, one exclaims " how beautiful ! ". But the men who built these cottages, these farmhouses, these manors, did not strive to obtain a beautiful effect. They would never have thought about that. Their building was always for a particular purpose, always strictly utilitarian. But they used the materials ready to hand, the local stone and the local timber. The natural offspring of Man and Nature is beauty.

Today, it has become commonplace to remark upon the fitness of old rural buildings to their surroundings. There is nothing remarkable about it. But the remark is a fitting commentary upon modern building and design upon the use of foreign materials instead of local ones, upon the decline in craftsmanship. If you would see what England, ordinary, humble, working, rural England, once looked like, should look like, could look like, make a short tour of Feckenham Forest.

Sheep wander over a sharp S-bend on the Defford road, Worcestershire

Upton-on-Severn, between the Malvern Hills and Bredon Hill

Vvern, a seamanship training craft, from the Britannia Royal Naval Training College at Dartmouth

In the Fastnet Race, *Quiver III* curls up to a squall. Another illustration from *The Uffa Fox Book of Sailing*

GABOR DENES

YACHTING

The 15-ft. Albacore sailing dinghy which has just been granted national status by the Royal Yachting Association has an interesting history, if a brief one. The majority of dinghies owe their existence to either the inspiration of a designer, or to strong sponsorship, usually by a publication, or as in the case of the most successful of all, to both.

The origin of the Albacore does not conform to this pattern. The class was founded in 1955 by a small group of dinghy sailors in the Portsmouth Harbour area, who sailed mainly from the Locks Sailing Club. They had many discussions about a desirable racing dinghy, and evolved a specification and design for a boat to serve three purposes: racing, cruising and family sailing in safety. Fairey Marine were already producing a boat of somewhat similar dimensions, the Swordfish, and the suggestion was made by this firm that the hull should be from the same mould as the Swordfish. This is in fact what happened, the first six Albacores were built with Swordfish shells. Apart from many differences in design detail, the Albacore has greater freeboard, and a slightly smaller sail area, giving greater stability and safety.

Albacores still come off the same mould as the Swordfish as far as the shell is concerned, but today they can be supplied by Fairey Marine either complete, or in the form of a bare shell, or a complete kit for home building. It is a characteristic of the class, and this was according to the wishes of its founders, that a great many boats are built by amateurs, or small local boatbuilders, using the hot-moulded Fairey shells.

From Portsmouth Harbour the Albacore spread along the South Coast, and in the last three years it has become popular all over Britain including Scotland and Wales. There are now over 1,500 sail numbers, and an unusually high proportion of these boats, about 600-700, have valid racing certificates. The National Championships will be sailed at Plymouth this year (August 12-16) and, for the first time in the history of the class, there are to be area championships in Wales and Scotland, and a team racing event on Lake Bala. National recognition by the RYA not only means that administration of the class is taken over by the national authority, but it will also accelerate its further growth.

Over 100 photographs by Eileen Ramsay give life and colour to a new book, *The Uffa Fox Book of Sailing* (Longacre Press, 15s.). Some of these excellent illustrations were specially taken for the book, others have been selected from the photographer's substantial collection.

Apart from the stirring foreword written by Uffa Fox in his highly characteristic style, it is not clear how much of the rest of the book was in fact written by this great exponent of small-boat sailing, and how much by its editor, John Mills. In some passages the Uffa Fox reasoning and the views expressed seem very much his own original, yet the great bulk of the book appears to be Mr. Mills's work—very painstaking at that—who must have taken a great deal of trouble in order to present such a vast amount of material in an orderly way. For there is hardly anything even remotely connected with small-boat sailing that has been overlooked, and the wealth of material makes this book a veritable encyclopaedia of sailing for young and not so young readers.

TRAVEL

NEUCHATEL: LAKE AND TOWN

By **SYLVIE NICKELS**

Neuchâtel, so its inhabitants and the brochures will tell you, is a centre for wine-growing and watch-making. It is a university town on the shores of the largest lake to lie entirely within Swiss borders. It is a fine centre from which to explore the Swiss section of the Jura mountains at whose feet it stands; and—modesty may or may not prevent them from adding this—it is the place where the purest French is spoken in Switzerland.

In short, Neuchâtel provides a very pleasant change indeed from more famous Swiss centres, in surroundings which are restful and, in places, quite dramatic enough, with bathing and lake excursions, mountains and history, valleys and vineyards, providing well-balanced holiday fare. Even the Alps are there, on fine days raising the entire length of their remote white turrets far across the other side of the lake. In fact, there can be few places from which more famous Alpine peaks can be seen at one glance.

The busy part of Neuchâtel is the newer district which stretches back from the lake shore; the picturesque part is found among the steep streets which clamber from the town centre up to the fine Collegiate Church (twelfth-thirteenth centuries) and Castle (fifteenth and sixteenth centuries). A path completely encircles the walls of the latter, offering some lovely glimpses across the roofs of the town. The museums of Fine Art, Art and History are worth visiting, one of their strangest curiosities being the collection of automats, of which three eighteenth-century models by Jaquet-Droz are set in motion on the first Sunday of every month. On one of the outer walls of the Ethnographic Museum there is Hans Erni's astonishing fresco, "History of the World," portraying the chequered progress of mankind.

From the attractive little port (the rather new Beau Lac Hotel rises beside it with wonderful views), excursion boats and lake steamers come and go the summer through, with trips to other lakeside towns and villages; or across the bay and down the river Broye to ancient Morat and its lake; or down another river, the Thielle, to the Lake of Bienne.

Not far from Neuchâtel, two valleys splay off in almost opposite directions into the Jura. One, the Val de Travers, is reached through the glorious Gorges de l'Areuse, whose course is followed from above by the main Paris road and railway. You can walk through the Gorges, too, and this river, now in dark, silent rock-pools of sinister aspect, now racing across sunlit stones, has not only beauty but an excellent stock of trout. The Val de Travers, far famed for its asphalt, is a typical Jura valley leading eventually to the French frontier near Pontarlier, but its greatest rewards lie buried deep in the mountains which enclose it. There are whole areas of these mountains which nobody knows except the inhabitants of the solitary farms, tending their cattle and husbanding their forests of thick, dark spruce amidst pastures rendered radiant in turn by crocuses, narcissi, gentians and anemones. The Val de Travers, incidentally, was much favoured by Jean-Jacques Rousseau—a feeling, alas, which was not reciprocated by its inhabitants.

Lying back from the lake shore, their great shoulders rising above the neat vineyards, are the southern summits of the Jura: Chaumont, dropping steeply into the outskirts of Neuchâtel itself and reached by funicular from the town; the Creux du Van, whose great rock face towers over the Gorges de l'Areuse; and, one of the loveliest of all, the Chasseron. It is on the slopes of the latter—slopes which in early June are blanketed with wild anemones—that the little resort of Les Rasses, near Sainte Croix, sits high on a grassy terrace overlooking the plains and lake.

The other valley even closer to Neuchâtel is the Val de Ruz, reached through the Gorges du Seyon. At the mouth of the Gorges is the pretty village of Valangin, guarded by an old castle at whose feet is a restaurant locally famous for one of the specialities of Neuchâtel, *gâteaux au beurre* (tissue-thin and dripping with butter). Another regional dish, though there are variations in other cantons, is the cheese *fondue* which goes well with the sharp white wines of the region.

The Val de Ruz is pleasant and pastoral; its main tourist attraction is the high spot, Tête de Ran, which overlooks it. In the valley itself, however, there is a tiny inn whose imaginative owner has converted it into a guest-house of considerable quaintness: the Relais de l'Auvent, near Boudevilliers (bed and breakfast and light meals only).

On the outskirts of Neuchâtel, particularly to the west, are the vineyards and, poking up out of them, little villages such as Auvernier, Colombier and Boudry where ancient fountains play their quiet music among houses which have been little touched by the twentieth century. But perhaps the loveliest village of all lies the other side of Neuchâtel: Le Landeron close to the shores of the Lake of Bienne.

A fine new road fringes the northern shore of Neuchâtel Lake for almost its entire length (about 23 miles) on its way to Lausanne and Geneva. It is a road full of pleasing perspectives that epitomise the subtle qualities of this gentle region.

For further information: Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, London, W.C.2.

Means of Access: London-Geneva (or Basle) by Swissair, BEA, etc., from £21 11s. night tourist excursion to £46 19s. first-class return. Also British United Air Ferries (passengers and cars), Southend-Geneva or Basle: passenger fares, £32 14s. return. Thence Geneva or Basle to Neuchâtel by rail: approx. £2 11s. second-class return, £3 7s. first class. By rail/sea, London-Neuchâtel, from £18 1s. second-class return, £25 19s. first-class return.

The view from the Tête de Ran in the Jura near Neuchâtel

The port of Neuchâtel on a calm day

...eyards on the banks of Lake Neuchâtel

...oftops in an old part of Neuchâtel

Le Landeron; a corner of the old town

Alpine travel in the 1860s.

Ascent by sedan chair in the Gemmi pass

100 YEARS OF COOK'S TOURS

When Miss Jemima took up her pen in the summer of 1863, she could little have guessed with what fanfare her words would find their way into print just 100 years later. Nor did she know that the group of travellers she joined on London Bridge station before 6 a.m. that Friday, June 26, was in the very act of creating travel history.

The group in question was formed by the members of the first organised tour to Switzerland, accompanied by one Mr. Thomas Cook of Leicester. Among the gathering of some 130 tourists was included a small group, self-styled the Junior United Alpine Club, who had elected to follow the Alpine section of Mr. Cook's itinerary. Miss Jemima, one of its members, was appointed " the artist of the Expedition," and " requested to prepare a record of the wanderings of the club during the present season for enrolment in its archives."

Miss Jemima did her work thoroughly and the resulting journal, discovered in a tin box salvaged from a bombed warehouse in 1947, has recently been published. In minute detail she has recorded the scenery they saw, the food they ate, the people they encountered, and their reactions to every circumstance. With humour and, on occasions, intrepidity, these " pioneers of civilisation " blazed their memorable trail from London through Paris and Geneva to the Alps and back again.

But if this small party was historic, the one which will reach Victoria Station by horse-drawn char-a-banc exactly 100 years later will hardly be less so. The party, similarly dressed in nineteenth-century costume and similarly accompanied by Mr. Thomas Cook (great-great-grandson of the founder), will retrace the steps of their dauntless predecessors. Where possible the same methods of transport will be used (including rail, lake steamer, horse carriage and foot), and even some of the same hotels. Nor have lesser details been overlooked. At Dieppe, for example, 50 cents duty will be charged on " veritable Yorkshire tarts "; 1863's ten-course menu will again be featured at dinner in Geneva; at Loeche-les-Bains, there will be breakfast served in the communal bathing pool where, no doubt, 1963's visitors will not find it so " difficult to maintain a sobriety consistent with good manners "; there will be the same lake excursions, the same sightseeing strolls.

Other points along the route will include Sion, Spiez, Interlaken, Giessbach, Lucerne, Rigi-Kulm, Berne and Neuchâtel, each preparing a festive welcome for its colourful visitors.

Since Miss Jemima's day, countless thousands of Cook's tours have woven similar holiday trails across the length and breadth of Switzerland. Mostly they have done it in considerably more comfort, for how many tourists today make a regular practice of rising at 4-5 a.m., or accomplish such expeditions as the Mer de Glace above Chamonix, the Gemmi pass, Wengernalp and Rigi on mule back or on foot?

In one other major aspect have conditions changed, too. A hundred years ago Miss Jemima and her party paid a little less than £20 each for their Swiss adventure. In 1963, the amount would be nearer £120 !

S.N.

A nineteenth-century prospect of Geneva, " that tried city of Protestantism "

BOOKS

FRANCE AND HER ARTISTS

From Olivia de Havilland's reminiscences to studies of Picasso and the post-impressionists; this week's fiction

Miss Olivia de Havilland, a vintage Hollywood star, has written EVERY FRENCHMAN HAS ONE (Elek. 15s.), a title calculated to titillate the drug store *boulevardiers* of Hicksville, Ark. It is to be hoped that they were not disappointed to find that she was referring to those broken and contrite livers beloved of the French, but as the book was published in the U.S.A. in 1961 one guesses that they have gotten round to it by now. It is as if Miss de Havilland set out to go one better than Miss Kimbrough. Well, she goes a lot better for she married a Frenchman, no less than the editor of *Paris Match*, but she can still use up three pages explaining the difference between a *smoking* and a tuxedo. And, of course, her explanation of the two expressions *faux pas* and *gaffe* will have rolled them in the aisles. Nor, I imagine, can the ranks of Hicksville forbear to cheer at her description of her tussles with French plumbers, builders and decorators.

Another book of highly feminine reminiscences is PATCHWORK CHILD (Weidenfeld and Nicolson. 21s.) being the early memories of Mrs. Brooke Astor, widow of one of the richest men in the United States, and writing here about her childhood as the only daughter of a Marine officer whose duties took the little family up and down the world. The little volume has a kind of naïve charm and reveals something of a very agreeable personality.

Professor Leon Edel's mammoth biography of HENRY JAMES (Hart-Davis. 50s.) has now reached its third volume and the years 1884 to 1894. A fourth volume is projected which will complete one of the most impressive studies, by a writer about a writer, of our present day. At the time of which Professor Edel has written, James was living in London for the most part and, as always, though outwardly undramatic, his career was accompanied by deep inward experiences of both the heart and the intellect. Perhaps due to the circumstances of his life during that period, *The Middle Years* strikes me as by far the most fascinating, even moving, of the biographical instalments to date.

PICASSO PLAIN (Secker and Warburg. 30s.) is yet another book about the great painter, this time written by a friend who has been part of the household for long periods of time and who is herself a novelist, journalist and art critic. Madame Helene Parmelin has brought a vivacious conversational style to her writing and has achieved an intimate portrait of Picasso which she prefaces with the perceptive words: " One knows him so little when one begins to know him! And later on one knows him not at all. But at least one is aware of it."

BERYL REID as an over-cheerful air hostess, one of the many character sketches she appears in as the star, with Naunton Wayne, of the new Alan Melville revue, *All Square*. This opened recently at the Vaudeville, London

THE POST-IMPRESSIONISTS (Cassell. 35s.), by Lawrence and Elisabeth Hanson, has been 11 years in the planning and is possibly the best book on which they have collaborated. In it they have aimed at relating the lives and the work of Gauguin, Cézanne and van Gogh and also at telling the story of the painters' lives in the light of modern research. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have succeeded brilliantly in their task and my only criticism of their book would be a practical one: that black, white and grey reproductions of splendid pictures are worse than useless to the reader.

From paintings to flowers. THE OXFORD BOOK OF GARDEN FLOWERS (Oxford University Press. 35s.) has been compiled by a team of enlightened experts, each of the five taking a specialised subject. There are also scores of full-page illustrations in colour which not only serve as an excellent source of reference but are very pleasant to contemplate. Recommended.

Mr. Art Buchwald is a very funny man and almost unique in that his newspaper articles published in New York and widely syndicated stand up well to collection in volume form i.e., IS IT SAFE TO DRINK THE WATER (Heinemann. 16s.). When he isn't makin one laugh out loud, which is nearly always, it i a pleasure to note that Mr. Buchwald is a fallible as almost all journalists nowadays an that the things one really knows about can b carelessly misreported. As, for instance, whe he goes to slay pheasants in England; or whe the astonished natives of St. Jean Cap Ferr should read of that "*Quatier of St. Hospice* once hired by Mr. David Niven.

The first three novels examine life as it has been lived in recent decades here and in th United States. Mr. Constantine FitzGibbon's GOING TO THE RIVER (Cassell. 21s.) has the widest focus, dealing with a number of

A TRAGIC BLUNDER?

The devastation of Dresden by Allied bombing

Having been only three years old when the Second World War began, David Irving, like most of the younger generation of war historians, writes with cool objectivity about the events of that time. THE DESTRUCTION OF DRESDEN (William Kimber. 36s.) is Mr. Irving's account of the city's devastation on February 13–14, 1945, when in a fire storm of appalling proportions, brought about by a double blow by 770 aircraft of RAF Bomber Command followed by 310 aircraft of the United States Eighth Air Force, some 135,000 people were killed. The casualties in that concentrated attack were nearly twice those caused by the atom bomb at Hiroshima. What is the lesson of this tale of horror? It is probably this: that nuclear disarmament is not the only thing needed to create a world at peace; that conventional weapons have an enormous destructive force and that we should keep the story of Dresden firmly before us. The utter uselessness of the Dresden attack is brought home with telling force, and Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby, who was Deputy AOC-in-C at Bomber Command at the time, confirms in his foreword that here was no military necessity.

While Dresden and raids like it were shattering the face of Germany, General Leslie R. Groves, of the U.S. Army Engineering Corps, was superintending the birth of the atomic bomb, that even more potent weapon of mass destruction which, however, may yet prove the salvation of man because of its ability to deter through sheer frightfulness. In NOW IT CAN BE TOLD (Andre Deutsch. 35s.) General Groves traces the course of events since 1942, when he was first entrusted with responsibility for the construction and operation of the huge plants needed to manufacture on an industrial scale fissile substances hitherto isolated only in microscopic quantities. Gradually more and more responsibility was foisted on the overburdened Groves. At length all this authority was deposited in the lap of the Atomic Energy Commission. His account of his exprieences will be a valuable source book for future historians probing into the origins of the atomic age. The General is notably frank, not least when he declares that, faced with vast Japanese casualties if the new bombs were dropped, he told General Marshall " I am not thinking so much about those casualties as the men who made the Bataan death march."

If Groves, as he admits, saw the use of atomic energy as a mighty measure of retaliation for a terrible wrong inflicted by the Japanese on his people, there are tens of thousands of men and women who are willing to risk their liberty to state a contrary view. Clara Urquhart has edited a symposium of views by leading men and women based on the question, is man entitled to disobey the laws of his society in order to protest against the manufacture by that society of weapons which will almost inevitably lead to ultimate disaster. David Ben-Gurion, Kenneth Kaunda, Danilo Dolci, Michael Scott, Bertrand Russell, Albert Schweitzer, Salvador de Madariaga and many others have contributed to A MATTER OF LIFE (Jonathan Cape. 21s.). Here is an impressive array of strongly held opinion, and including within it many shades of opinion, but without a heartening unity of purpose.

This year brings the 100th edition of WISDEN (Sporting Handbooks Ltd. 25s.). It has been a grand century and, as the years have rolled on, Wisden has played itself into the hearts of cricket lovers everywhere. To commemorate the 100th edition John Wisden and Co. have presented the Wisden Trophy to be played for perpetually between West Indies and England on the same lines as the contest for the Ashes. May the trophy produce some really bright cricket in the years ahead. Wisden itself, let it be said, is better than ever.

COLLINS FIELD GUIDE TO ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRITAIN (Collins. 25s.) is the first guide book of its kind, concerning itself with visible traces left by man in Britain's countryside, everything indeed from prehistory to quite modern times. Eric Wood is the author, and Sir Mortimer Wheeler writes the introduction. There are excellent photographs and line drawings.

Finally, here are two new volumes for the angler. Robert Bruce's FLY FISHING: A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION (Bell. 13s. 6d.) is a handy pocket size volume for beginners. THE COMPLETE FLY FISHER (Herbert Jenkins. 45s.) is edited by C. F. Walker and covers the field with great accuracy and thoroughness.

Richard Edmonds

intelligent, mostly intellectual, figures in England as they resolved their existences—or had choices forcibly made for them—between August 1914 till 1940. Quite impressive and with a strong and sincerely romantic thread running through the story. DEATH IS A LIZARD (Hutchinson. 18s.) establishes its author, Mr. John Williams, as the vigorous new author one had supposed him to be when his first novel, *On the Way Out*, appeared. The new book is concerned with middle-aged love, middle periods of marriage and disillusion. Not very cheering as a story but very welcome to anyone who appreciates fresh writing. THE HEART WORM (Hamish Hamilton. 18s.), by Mr. Richard Dohrman, is set in the New York of five or ten years ago and is as sharply bright as Broadway's lights. Very clever indeed.

I think that if I had been trying to find a title illustrative of a kind of contemporary literary style, I could not have done better than *The Rehabilitation of Ginevra Leake*, which is the first story of 13 in a collection by Miss Hortense Calisher, comprehensively called TALE FOR THE MIRROR (Secker and Warburg. 21s.). The stories are representative of about ten years in this still young career and all of ten have been printed in various American magazines, from the *avant garde* to the reputation-making *New Yorker*. Clever, acutely observed, unsentimental and quite memorable. Mr. Stuart Cloete's short stories, in THE LOOKING GLASS (Collins. 16s.), are of Africa and he has called them " night stories " to suggest that they are of the kind that men might tell each other round a dying camp fire, as the big moon of the Africa he loves himself comes up behind the hills. This is Mr. Cloete at his best: neither self-consciously dramatic nor with too political a slant, and they are very good indeed.

FREEDOM OBSERVED (Collins. 18s.) is Africa observed from another angle: Mr. Glyn Griffin's sharply imaginative novel about the first crucial weeks in the birth of a new West African republic. Knowledgeable and exciting, THE PANAMA PORTRAIT (Macdonald. 16s.) shows another aspect of Mr. Stanley Ellin's talent, for this American writer is not only remarkably gifted but has proved himself already in at least three literary manners. The present book deals with a young American and his business mission to an imaginary island, 4,000 miles from New York, off the Pacific coast of South America. Although the theme is dramatic and the action adventurous, this is a novel to be read slowly and appreciatively.

Back to a more distant past with Mrs. Norah Lofts's novel, THE HOUSE AT SUNSET (Hutchinson. 21s.), which is this author's finest for some years. It is concerned with the same 18th-century home of earlier books and brings its history up to the present day. Wonderfully evocative of changing periods and written, as always, with grace and scholarship.

Miss Henrietta Buckmaster's ambitious plan has been to capture and set down on paper one year in the life of William Shakespeare and this she has set out to do with more than a fair measure of success in her novel, ALL THE LIVING (Gollancz. 25s.). Not just any year, either, but the months when, in 1600, in London and Stratford-on-Avon, Shakespeare was preparing to write *Hamlet*. No mean attempt and a praiseworthy piece of work as a result: imaginative and sympathetic.

Thrillers of the week are Mr. William Haggard's tautly written story, THE HIGH WIRE (Cassell. 16s.), which combines Big Business, Foreign Powers and our own much maligned Security services, and is a winner. And Miss Dulcie Gray's more domestic but equally thrilling tale, MURDER IN MIND (Macdonald. 12s. 6d.), which contrives to make even such mild substances as boric acid take on a sinister connotation.

Vernon Fane

Photograph by Morris Newcombe

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR *at the Aldwych Theatre*

Above: Michéal Mac Liammóir returned last week to London with his marathon solo entertainment consisting of a highly skilled dramatised biography of Oscar Wilde. Using a range of gestures sometimes floridly Victorian, this distinguished Irish actor links long recitations from Wilde's works by short bursts of biography. He quotes extensively from the plays and poems, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *De Profundis*. In his short three-week season at the Aldwych, Michéal Mac Liammóir is also giving a new solo entertainment called *I must be talking to my friends*—the dramatists, poets, wits and revolutionaries of Ireland. In addition, while the Royal Shakespeare is away on tour, the Aldwych will see Vittorio Gassman and his Teatro Popolare Italiano for one week.

LUV *at the New Arts Theatre*

Below: Ellen (Fenella Fielding), Harry (George A. Cooper) and Milt (Dick Emery) in a scene from the American writer Murray Schisgal's abrasively comic, *avant garde* attack on both the familiar triangle situation and the protective neuroses too frequently aired in American society. Full of cunning in exploiting the devices of the theatre, particularly the theatre of the absurd, the play takes place on a New York bridge from which the characters variously threaten to throw themselves.

Photograph by Anthony Crickmay

LEADERS OF BRITISH INDUSTRY

Photographed by Tom Hustler

W. E. Kenrick

Mr. W. E. Kenrick, Managing Director of Archibald Kenrick and Sons, Ltd., manufacturers of hardware and ironmongery, was elected President of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce last year. A member of a family well known in business and public life in Birmingham for generations, William Edmund Kenrick was born in 1908 and educated at Rugby and Balliol College, Oxford. In 1930 he joined the family business, which was established at the end of the eighteenth century, and became a member of the Board four years later. Mr. Kenrick has taken a leading part in trade affairs, being President of the National Institute of Hardware from 1950 to 1953 and President of the National Hardware Alliance in 1957. In addition, he plays a leading part in public life in Birmingham—as a Life Governor of Birmingham University, a Guardian of the Assay Office and a Commissioner of Taxes. Mr. Kenrick's father and both his grandfathers were Lord Mayors of Birmingham and Honorary Freemen of the City. The Kenricks are related to another remarkable Birmingham family, the Chamberlains—Mr. Kenrick is a great nephew of Joseph Chamberlain. Married, with three sons and a daughter, Mr. Kenrick lives at Metchley Abbey, Harborne. His hobbies include gardening, ornithology, archaeology, tennis and a " general interest in anything he can understand "

A HIRE PURCHASE BOOM AHEAD?

By "THE SPHERE" INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Last time a British Government sought to stimulate expansion with a really large injection of extra purchasing power into the economy, in 1958-59, the effect was enhanced by a huge splurge of buying on credit—which predictably, but more quickly than anyone expected, went too far. Hire purchase surged into a boom, through some combination of confidence and a backlog of demand for consumers' durable goods. Home demand was rapidly stimulated more than the Government had intended; manufacturers put less effort into exporting with an avid internal market where selling was far easier; and there followed the next set of red signals in the familiar "Stop-Go" policy. Incidentally, the finance houses whose hire purchase business had gone up by leaps and bounds had a day of reckoning too; far more purchasers on credit than had recently been normal had to default on their payments, with the consequence that cars and other articles had to be "re-possessed," at considerable expense and loss to all concerned.

The experience of that last boom had a good deal to do with the controversy, before Mr. Maudling's Budget, about just how far he ought to go in re-stimulating the economy. It has left some apprehension, among his more cautious critics, that another splurge of credit buying, multiplying the extra spending power that his tax cuts will release, could be on the way, threatening the same consequences.

In one "technical" sense it could be said that the conditions for a hire purchase boom today are quite ripe. They have been ripening, indeed, for more than a year, and many experts counted upon a sizeable resumption of hire purchase buying last year to help Britain out of recession without much official stimulus. This ripeness arises simply from the fact that the hire purchase debt outstanding came down steadily from a peak in early 1961 and continued downwards, though more slowly, last year.

Some people at least have a tendency to spend a given amount of their income on instalment payments; once one has finished paying for the car the next item is new furniture for the drawing-room, and so on. And in spite of the checks to economic expansion in 1961, continuing through 1962, people's incomes did not go down in aggregate. So in spite of hire purchase restrictions, many people in the consumer trades hoped that the steady paying off of outstanding hire purchase commitments would almost automatically engender further buying to keep the level of debt outstanding fairly level.

In late 1961 and 1962, however, this did not happen. New hire purchase business in household goods shops did show a significant growth, but the considerably larger volume of business in which finance houses extend credit direct to customers (e.g. for cars) remained well below the level of the three previous years.

There is no doubt that one equally "technical" factor holding back the resumption of hire purchase on a very heavy scale has been the chastened attitude of the finance companies. Several of these had burned their fingers badly after the 1959-60 boom in their business; most of them were determined to be more rigorous in their approach to the potential borrower. The companies themselves, nowadays, rather than the Government, insist on relatively high deposits; they are more strict in their enquiries into creditworthiness; and they have put the whole accent on caution, in spite of the fact that their own long-run prosperity depends on an expansion of—reliable—credit buying.

But this caution on the part of the lender has been, during the past 12 months, matched by equal caution on the part of the potential borrower. Consumers' incomes continued to rise, though less than in recent years; but their expenditure did not rise in full proportion. One cannot simply account for this by talking about saturation of British households with the consumer durables that are typically bought on hire purchase. Though the most rapid period of expansion in sales of most durables may have passed, and a sizeable proportion of households do own washing-machines, cars, and the like, most manufacturers can demonstrate that there is plenty of room left for expansion of ownership of their goods.

It seems more plausible to put this caution about buying ahead on credit down to a growing uncertainty among the public about economic conditions. Much more publicity has been given to redundancy, here and there across the economy, during the last 18 months than perhaps at any time since the war. The wave of large-scale mergers, with their unsettling extent on the staffs of the companies taking and taken over, might have contributed. Comparatively few people have got the sack; rather more have seen it happen, or had to consider it, than for years past. For the British economy as a whole, this adjustment to a more flexible industrial pattern is on balance a good thing. But at the time that it begins it is liable to make many of the people concerned, sensibly, more cautious about entering into long-term spending commitments.

Even as expansion in the economy generally is resumed, this hint of possible redundancy and need to change jobs seems likely to hang about the economy, and over people's minds, more than it did in the '50's; it will be interesting to see whether it continues to make buyers cautious. In the trade, there are certainly hopes of an expansion of hire purchase from now on, and the first signs have already been seen in car sales. But the dangers of any runaway boom in this kind of spending, multiplying the stimulus that the Government is giving the economy to a dangerous degree, certainly do not seem imminent.

Hire purchase and credit buying are not simply a habit of ordinary consumers; they apply to a sizeable area of business buying too. If the availability of extended credit systems, or of the relatively new system of leasing industrial equipment, were likely to multiply industry's readiness to invest in new equipment this year, nobody would have any misgivings whatever. The one doubt left in Whitehall and elsewhere is about how soon private investment will begin to rise in accordance with expansion elsewhere in the economy.

The only sizeable part of business investment financed by actual hire purchase, as a regular custom, is transport equipment: lorries, fleets of cars, tractors and other farm vehicles in agriculture. A business firm, operating on a much larger scale than the personal borrower and with more readily demonstrable creditworthiness, can get better terms; for the finance company, the business is safer though it yields narrower margins. But in recent years the idea of buying equipment on hire purchase has been extending much more widely: everything from heavy machinery to office equipment may be bought in this way. Many forms of credit may be open to a business for its operations, ranging from a bank overdraft to the raising of new capital on the share market; but at times hire purchase is one of the most convenient.

The leasing of equipment, in which the person who uses it never becomes the owner at all, is in its infancy in Britain, except for a few industries in which particular machinery makers have been long accustomed to hire out their plant rather than ever sell it. British industrialists are accustomed to leasing offices, and on occasion factory buildings; leasing their actual manufacturing plant is a comparatively new idea to most of them, though the practice has been developing since 1960. There can be tax advantages in individual cases; equally, a company may be anxious not to increase its capital investment of its own money to the same proportion as its business is growing. The desire for increased ownership is an enormously powerful one; domestic hire purchase has thrived mainly by making this easier for the ordinary man. But in business, though the same emotional drives apply, it is the use of capital equipment that counts, not its ownership; and there may be occasions where a business could profit considerably more by owning less.

The underground tunnel which accommodates main cables, busbar trunking and heating system at the Rootes Group's huge new car factory at Linwood in Scotland and thus leaves the floor unrestricted for the positioning of equipment. More than 220 miles of cables were supplied by the BICC Group for the factory, most of it manufactured locally by Scottish Cables Ltd. The factory produces the new Imp—see page 244

Opening the die in which an electrical machinery part has been cast in aluminium alloy, at the Handsworth, Birmingham, works of Alcan Industries, Ltd.

Models for studying machine-tool structures, Production Engineering Research Association

Car bodies for Singer Vogues are produced Carbodies, Ltd., the BS[illegible] Group's bod

Tractors leave the production line of the Massey-Ferguson plant in Coventry at the rate of one every two minutes—three-quarters of them destined to be exported

Riveting the clam-shell rear door of an Argosy 650 air freighter at the Whitworth Gloster Aircraft factory near Coventry

MR. MAUDLING AND THE MIDLANDS

By "THE SPHERE" MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

The question that remains unanswered for the Midlands, as for the rest of the country, is whether Mr. Maudling's Budget will get a whole range of industries moving forward again in line abreast reasonably briskly instead of at varying speeds or even marking time. Budgets in other years have tended either to swell the postbag of inquiries (for certain sectors of industry) or to cause salesmen to start knocking on many more doors, while in-between "little Budgets," by changes in purchase tax and credit controls, could knock a promising development on the head—with two years of hard work and tooling up—or else give an unexpected fillip to demand. Merely by avoiding such excesses the Chancellor has given a useful boost to confidence by making it tolerably certain that forward planning will not be subject to sudden changes in direction. Whether he has done enough cannot yet be said.

Confidence had waned steadily among Midlands industrialists from the late summer onwards, and month by month the Regional Board for Industry, the official voice of industry and the trade unions, called for bigger and more general stimulants for the economy. At the meeting just before the Budget it was still calling for more general measures, although acknowledging the shot in the arm given to the motor industry by November's reduction in purchase tax.

But though there has been general marking time, some industries have done well. Carpets and pottery have achieved new records. Bicycles have made a come-back. Tractors and diesel engines have had good years. And where considerable under-employment of capacity exists it can sometimes be attributed to inexorable changes in technology, like the rise of plastics at the expense of metals, to which the Midlands is certainly no stranger. And it can also sometimes be put down to deficiencies in management, design or sales aggressiveness, particularly in export markets.

While the Midlands has its big battalions like the vehicle manufacturers, Tube Investments, AEI, GKN, the Owen Organisation and Stewarts and Lloyds (and mergers are creating larger units), it remains the great sub-contracting area of the country, the home of countless medium and small firms. Many of them are family concerns with limited ambitions about growing and no tremendous urge to go out and win export medals.

Modern production and management techniques are driving further and further the wedge between the most and the least efficient. By not injecting a sudden stimulant Mr. Maudling has removed hopes of the less efficient firms of being able to refloat themselves on a fortuitous tide of demand and has made success much more dependent on individual efforts. By thus encouraging self-examination the Chancellor has performed a useful service.

Nevertheless, the Midlands is in general, with London and the South-East, the most

this shop of the Coventry factory of
aking and metal fabrication subsidiary

Assembling a 10,000 lb. thrust Spey by-pass jet engine at the Rolls-Royce works at Derby

Casting a large diesel engine bedplate at the Ettingshall, Wolverhampton, works of John Thompson Castings, Ltd. The factory produces castings from only a few ounces to 18 tons—they include castings for machine tool manufacturers and dies

prosperous area in the country. Its rate of growth threatened strangulation until the Board of Trade stepped in to control expansion by refusing Industrial Development Certificates except in the most deserving cases and the Local Employment Act of 1960 to help under-developed areas began to be fully implemented. As a result approvals have fallen from 463 (representing nearly 11 million sq. ft. of floor space) in 1960 to 229, representing 3·7 million sq. ft., last year. In the first quarter of this year, 73 schemes were approved with a total of 1·2 million sq. ft.; although this is the largest number approved for any region, the North-West, with 1·3 million sq. ft (though only 60 schemes) stands to gain more, and the Midlands figure is not significantly different from last year's.

While this fall parallels a national slowing down in the rate of new investment in building and plant, it also reflects the extent to which Midlands prosperity has been spread to South Wales, Scotland, the North-West and Ireland. For example, a substantial slice of the motor industry's expansion has gone to those areas, including BMC and Rootes Group plants in Scotland, the latter opened a few days ago by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Cars and lorries have set the pace. Since 1949 the motor industry has more than doubled its productivity—an improvement four times better than that of manufacturing industry generally. This year it should reach new output and export peaks—though even so not all new capacity will be taken up. In the Midlands it employs about one in 12 of the working population. Including tractors, commercial vehicles, and motor-cycles, the figure rises to one in ten of nearly 2,250,000 workers in five counties. (A table showing employment changes in the past ten years is given on page 242. It illustrates the growth in engineering, electrical and metal-using industries.)

But motors, despite their influence, have not been alone in feeling the technological advance. The heavy electrical industry in Birmingham, Rugby and Stafford has seen tremendous changes. Just after the war 60 mW generators were standard; now the standard capacity is 500 mW, so that one of the stations built or planned along the Trent can supply Birmingham with just four of these generators.

Electronics has added greatly to the sophistication and control of machine tools, another largely Midlands-based industry, with Coventry the home of Alfred Herbert, the largest machine tool organisation in the world. As motor industry contracts ran out and general industrial expenditure slowed down, machine tool makers have suffered from a shortage of home orders, though export markets have remained buoyant. But recently home inquiries have started to move up, though prospects for an appreciable increase in home business this year look slim, for investment incentives are not likely to have a major effect for many months.

(*Continued on page 238*)

Part of a new yarn preparation installation at the Pleasley Vale spinning mills of William Hollins & Co. Ltd., a member of the Viyella International Group

A skilled craftsman carefully decorates a piece of fine china at the factory in Stoke-on-Trent of Minton Ltd.

First stage in assembling a pin tumbler cylinder lock, Willenhall factory of Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co.

The control panel for the transporters carrying the work to operatives stitching the leather uppers at the shoe factory of Church & Co. at Northampton

THE MIDLANDS

(*Continued from page 237*)

Under the whip of competition the consumer goods industries have been changing to meet the stringent pricing in the market place, especially with those not strongly based in the Midlands, such as refrigerators, gas and electric cookers and washing-machines. Craft-based industries like footwear, pottery and hosiery are seeing the replacement of manual processes by mechanisation and improved equipment, stopping short only where craftsmanship is essential to provide quality and fine finish.

In various forms the conveyor has entered widely into these industries, enabling production to be planned on a flow basis. Machinery and equipment manufacturers are coming forward with ingenious devices to telescope a dozen or more manual processes into one and still do it better and faster. Increased productivity will benefit the leaders of reform but, in general, results in these industries are unlikely to be significantly better unless home demand gets another push.

Increased output in motors—it is expected to be around 12 per cent. higher this year than last—is already having a widely beneficent effect. Higher rates of home, office and hospital building will also benefit a wide range of industry such as the non-ferrous sections, supplying copper tubing, aluminium window frames, and fittings, as well as those firms which supply steel and sanitary and electrical fixtures.

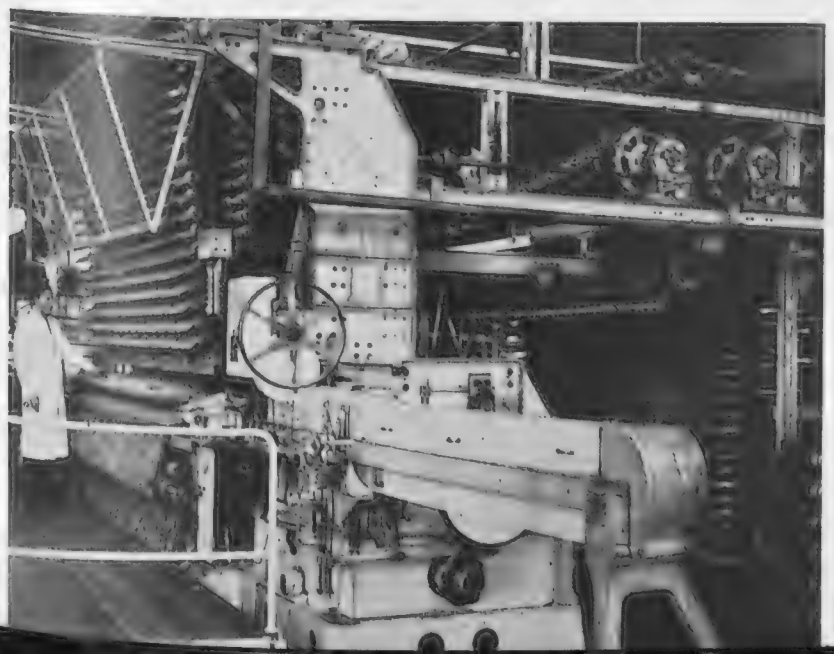
The Midlands also stand to gain considerably from the expansion in electricity supplies, both in manufacturing and construction. Already the region produces more than a quarter of the nation's electricity, enough to meet its own demands and to export 2,000,000-3,000,000 kWs daily. The combination of water and cheap coal (the East Midlands coalfield produces one-third of the country's power-station coal) makes the Trent Valley one of the most important power houses in the country. At least for the next decade it will remain Britain's cheapest source of electrical power, and a large slice of the Central Electricity Generating Board's budget is being spent there.

As for gas, the £10,000,000 Lurgi plant at Coleshill, near Birmingham, will by next winter have an extra capacity of 40,000,000 cub. ft. a day to offer, and with Sahara methane next year this will rise to 50,000,000. Plans to double this figure with petroleum feedstock are in hand. The plant will be vital to the national gas grid, and once oil refineries are linked to Midlands depots of the main petroleum companies by pipeline, Midlands interests will play an even more important part.

Broadly, improvements under way or in sight should in time generate a useful increase in activity, but quite appreciable increases in output could probably take place with relatively small increases in the labour force. To that extent, the state of the labour market is likely to be a rather unreliable guide to increases in industrial activity.

A typical forging unit, producing diesel engine connecting rods, at the Bromsgrove factory of Garringtons Ltd., member of the GKN group

A large drawbench producing steel tubing at the Broadwell works in Birmingham of Accles & Pollock Ltd. **Below:** A Spool Axminster Broadloom, part of the large amount of modern equipment at the carpet factory in Kidderminster of Tomkinsons Ltd. Such looms work almost continuously producing about 300 yards of carpet a week



MIDLANDS MATTERS

By "THE SPHERE" MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

Not the least of the many distinguished services which Sir Bertram Waring has rendered as chairman and managing director of the Lucas Organisation may prove to be his ideal of transforming it into a multi-lingual society.

His aim to have as many employees as possible speaking other languages reflects both the breadth of his interests and his constant concern for the well-being of his employees. His own interests have ranged wide, from the presidency of the local British Legion county council to the leading of a successful appeal for £1,500,000 for new halls of residence for Birmingham University. In addition he has served industry, in its wider aspects, wisely and well in such capacities as the presidency of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the Motor Industry Research Association, and currently he holds several "extra-mural" positions with distinction.

He introduced his language awards into the Lucas Organisation three years ago, but this is the first full year of operation. So far, 1,000 of the group's 55,000 employees are taking courses which can lead them to awards totalling £160 for each language studied.

Whether labourer or executive, a Lucas employee (unless knowledge of languages is part of his normal duties) can gain £15 for reaching elementary level (equal to GCE "O" level), £50 for intermediate level (GCE "A" level) and can go on for an advanced award equivalent to university conversational level.

The most popular language is French, taken by about half the students, followed by German (about 40 per cent.); Italian and Spanish share the remaining ten per cent. equally. Owing largely to the initiative of Lucas and similar forward-looking companies, Birmingham is in the forefront of the automated teaching of languages, using tape recorders and visual aids.

Typical of the inventive newcomers who are being attracted to Coventry by that city's vigorous and enterprising outlook is Precious Metal Depositors, Ltd., which in six years is well on the way to a £1,000,000 turnover.

This specialised metal-plating firm was started by Mr. R. F. Naylor mainly on £3,500 won in a television contest "Be Your Own Boss." Such has been its expansion that although it has been at its present premises in Broad Lane for rather less than two years it is already planning to double capacity as the first phase in a three-point programme.

Its work is to be found in a growing range of industries as well as unexpected places like Coventry Cathedral. It supplies raw materials for gold plating more than 1,500,000 watches a year, most television signals pass over its gold plating, and it is closely concerned with the aircraft, electronic, missile and computer industries.

Besides making and supplying the raw materials for gold, silver and other specialised metal plating and doing the actual plating, the firm's activities have been widened to include the patented processes and specially designed plant to go with the raw materials. Mr. Naylor believes P.M.D. now offers the most comprehensive service outside the United States.

A frequent visitor to Europe, he was impressed—unfavourably—with the tight hold American and German companies had on the market, and set about redressing the balance in favour of the U.K. One of his latest contracts is for Scandinavia, where he displaced a German supplier.

He sums up his philosophy thus: "We have tried to apply modern thinking and materials to today's needs, and as a result are extremely busy in both export and home markets." One recent result of new thinking is the development by a subsidiary, P.M.D. Chemicals, of a new filter of graded density which stops large particles on the outside and the smallest inside. Although designed for filtering plating solutions, it is finding applications in the soft drink, photographic and other industries; it can be changed in minutes where others need hours.

The agreement which the British pottery delegation brought home recently after five hard days of bargaining at Nagoya, the centre of the Japanese industry, seems to have been well received.

Under the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Treaty Japanese pottery of traditional design is allowed quota-free entry. The problem was how to define "traditional". The delegation was able to do this by getting agreement on what was not traditional, and in the process quoted at the Japanese delegation some of their own definitions, which they could hardly reject.

In future licences to export to the U.K. will be granted only under the terms of the agreement by the Japanese Pottery Design Centre, which, from 1968 onwards, when the Treaty runs out, will exercise a voluntary control over exports.

The agreement should remove fears expressed by potters most likely to be hit by Japanese competition and do much to cement understanding of each other's problems.

This is the first of a new column in "The Sphere." In future, "Midlands Matters," focusing attention on industrial events and personalities in the Midlands, will appear each week. Information should be addressed to "The Sphere" Midlands Correspondent, c/o The Editor, The Sphere, 13-15 John Adam Street, London, W.C.2. Please send us your notes as early as possible. Release dates will be respected.

Ross Group reports continued expansion

"The Group is now a closely knit, well integrated and constantly expanding combination of companies, dedicated to bringing quality foods to British homes and Export Markets."

The following are extracts from the report by the Chairman, Mr. J. Carl Ross, circulated with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending September 30, 1962.

Profits for the Group, before taxation, at £679,149 (£1,066,418) are disappointingly lower. I reported to you last year that certain factors had adversely affected our trading during the first six months of the financial year in each of the Trawling, Chicken and Frozen Food Divisions. Although there was a recovery during the second six months, it came too late to restore full profitability.

The Ordinary Dividend is being maintained at 22%.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

During the year the turnover of the Group rose from £42,000,000 to £52,000,000 in the following broad divisions:

	1961 £	1962 £
Value of fish landed from our vessels	4,200,000	**4,500,000**
Fish Merchanting	11,200,000	**12,400,000**
Frozen and other Foods	15,400,000	**18,200,000**
Chickens	6,000,000	**10,800,000**
Shipbuilding, Engineering, Transport & Motor Distribution and Other Activities	5,200,000	**6,100,000**
	£42,000,000	**£52,000,000**

Despite the disappointing results for the year there is certainly no justification for any loss of faith in the continuing expansion and success of the Group on its present basis.

Since the year end, our expansion has continued. Each development is designed, not only to be profitable in itself, but also to increase the efficiency and thereby the profitability of existing interests.

Speaking at the annual general meeting held on April 26 in London the Chairman stated, inter alia, that subject to unforeseen circumstances the profits of the Group as now constituted for the year to September 30, 1963, will be not less than £1,200,000 before taxation as compared with £680,000 for the year ended September 30, 1962. This increase stems from a general improvement in trading conditions, and it should not be thought that it is solely due to the profits of new subsidiaries acquired during the current year.

ROSS GROUP LIMITED

New Fiction

Thing To Love
GEOFFREY HOUSEHOLD

May 13 21s.

Autobiography

The Reluctant Pilot
PAMELA SYKES 16s.

MICHAEL JOSEPH

LACCO AMENO

Isola d'Ischia Bay of Naples

Enchanting sojourn on the border of the sea. Thermal radioactive Baths within the Hotels. Swimming pool. Tennis. Minigolf. Dancing.

Hotels

REGINA ISABELLA de luxe

REGINELLA 1st category

INDUSTRY AND THE STOCK MARKET

CLEAN OFFICES

By "THE SPHERE" CITY CORRESPONDENT

By the end of July the Government's Bill laying down improved standards of health, safety and welfare for office and shop workers is expected to become law. Though its impact will at first be gradual, already behind the scenes a number of companies likely to be affected are preparing themselves for change. Two sectors where higher standards should lead to an increase in business are office cleaning and linen hire. Britain's office cleaning industry has until recently been dominated by family-owned companies with no Stock Market quotation. As a result their growth has gone largely unnoticed. Biggest of them all, the Goodliffe family's Office Cleaning Services, employs 17,000 chars and window cleaners, and includes among its contracts the cleaning of London Airport. Next biggest—by number of employees—is the Mahony family's General Cleaning Services which has some 7,000 staff. Both companies have benefited from the great expansion of office building that has occurred in the last five years.

But in the past two years a series of mergers in the office cleaning industry has brought its affairs into the public eye. Britain's third biggest office cleaning firm—a combine of Cleaners Ltd. and Westminster Window and General Cleaners—had been brought to the Stock Market by its managing family in late 1960 under the title Pritchard Cleaners. It employs now some 7,000 people and, significantly, last July acquired two privately owned firms specialising in supplying and hiring linen to industrial and commercial firms. This will give Pritchard an additional service to offer its existing office cleaning clients and incidentally provides the group with a division in each of the areas that look like being most affected by the Offices Bill.

Meanwhile, under the guiding hand of pre-war financier Mr. Clarence Hatry, five different family office cleaning firms covering London and the Midlands were being brought together in a combine that was based on a small Hammersmith laundry company. By early this year Mr. Hatry had handed over his responsibilities, and the group was launched on the Stock Market under the title Associated Cleaning Companies (now Affiliated Cleaning Companies). An idea of the growth of the office cleaning industry can be obtained from the consortium's pre-tax profits which were some £55,000 a year in the early 1950s and this year are expected to be about £300,000. Although the bulk of this group's work is in office cleaning, it is noteworthy that it has a laundry side which could no doubt be used (since laundering is the key to linen hire) as the basis of a towel and linen hire side.

These moves have not gone unnoticed by the giants in the linen hire business. Britain's biggest hirers of office linen and towels ("Towel-Flo"), Initial Services, has suddenly fought back by acquiring two sizeable, privately owned office cleaning firms with a combined staff of 4,500 and a list of clients that includes Buckingham Palace and 10, Downing Street.

So far, the other leading linen hire firms such as Advance Laundries (chiefly a domestic and contract launderer, but also big in soap and towel—"Towelmaster"—services) have not yet announced any moves into office cleaning. And Spring Grove Laundries, who do linen hire, have only touched the fringe of the business by hiring out special impregnated dusting cloths. But it is fair to guess that the trend towards "comprehensive office services" is well under way, and that further mergers will take place. The advantages of a combined group offering a wide range of services from floor and window cleaning to tea service, linen hire and telephone cleaning are easy to understand. For the client it means one account; and for the cleaning group a pooling of administration and overheads should lower costs.

Another advantage of a large unit is its larger capital resources. As office buildings get bigger the cost of cleaning them increases (a 15-storey City skyscraper costs £4,000 a month to clean), and as bills are usually only submitted monthly or quarterly, a substantial sum of capital is tied up. Meanwhile, chars (at 4s. to 5s. an hour plus travel) are paid by the week. Large resources also offer greater scope for modernisation and labour-saving equipment.

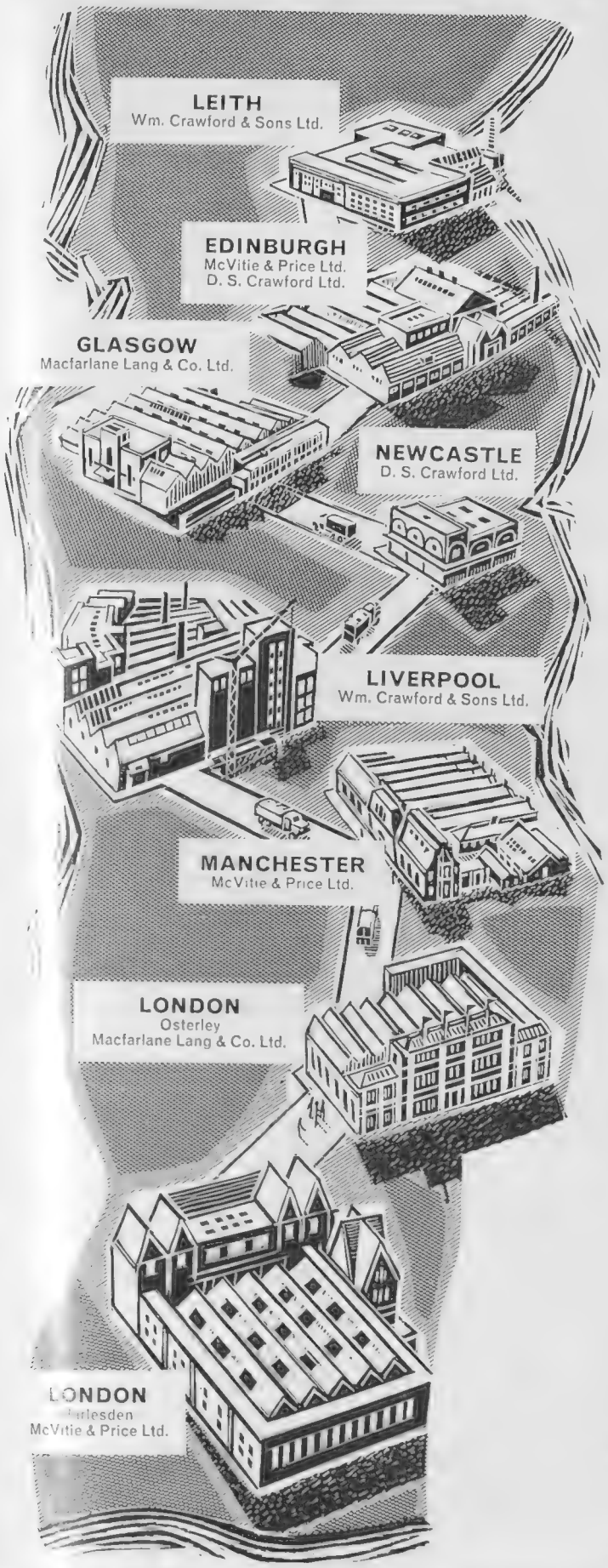
One conclusion seems certain: that the cleaning industry is in for a further period of sustained expansion. Investors who wish to participate will of course find that share prices of the companies involved are already high in anticipation and that dividend and earnings yields are low. Initial Services has suffered earnings setbacks in the past two years but has forecast improved results for the year just ended. Its ordinary shares at around 50s. yield a shade over 3 per cent., 1½ times covered. Advance Laundries has a good profits record and, while the pace of expansion is slowing slightly, an increased dividend and property revaluation have been announced. The shares yield about 3 per cent. (twice covered) at around 12s.

More fully committed to office cleaning are Pritchard Cleaners (Holdings) with an excellent record which has just turned in good results once again. At 21s. the yield is a well covered 3½ per cent. Finally, there is Affiliated Cleaning Companies with an impressive record but still a newcomer to the Stock Market. The shares, which have doubled in the past year, are at 9s. on only a 2 per cent. yield, but the forecast suggests a twice covered 4 per cent. yield is probable.

UNITED BISCUITS LIMITED

AND OPERATING COMPANIES

McVitie & Price Ltd · Macfarlane Lang & Co Ltd · William Crawford & Sons Ltd · D.S. Crawford Ltd



STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN
SIR PETER G. MACDONALD, J.P., W.S.,
to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of United Biscuits Limited on May 31st, 1963.

THE YEAR 1962 has been one of great challenge and interest and one of the most important in our history. As shareholders know, during the year William Crawford & Sons Limited, which was the largest privately owned biscuit manufacturing company in the United Kingdom, joined our group.

At that time Mr. D. I. Crawford, C.B., D.S.O., T.D., D.L., the Chairman of William Crawford & Sons Limited, and Messrs. D. A. Crawford, J.P., J. F. M. Holland, and A. I. Crawford, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., directors of that company, were invited to join the board of United Biscuits. These gentlemen, who were already old friends of ours, will greatly strengthen your board, and at the Annual General Meeting you will be asked to confirm their appointment as directors.

While welcoming our new colleagues, I pay warm tribute to those directors who have retired in the course of the year. Firstly, I should like to refer to Mr. John E. Macfarlane, Chairman of Macfarlane Lang, who has been vice-chairman since the inception of United Biscuits. He and his brother, Mr. Robert F. Macfarlane, also a director of Macfarlane Lang and of your company, and Mr. P. M. Shaw and Mr. J. B. Langlands, both of whom were directors of McVitie & Price as well as of your company, have retired from this board in order to make room for younger men. On your behalf I record our gratitude to them for the loyal and able service they have rendered to the company during the past fourteen years.

We welcome to the board of this company Messrs. A. Morton Young and A. G. Laing, M.C., directors of McVitie & Price, and Mr. G. F. White, a director of Macfarlane Lang. Their wide experience will be of great value to United Biscuits.

The year 1962 marked the imposition by the previous Chancellor of the Exchequer of a 15 per cent purchase tax on chocolate biscuits. I mentioned in my Statement last year that I personally felt that the Chancellor and his advisers would have been better employed in seeking cuts in Government expenditure and eliminating waste in nationalised industries, thus reducing instead of increasing taxation. I am still of the same opinion, and, as the United Kingdom chocolate biscuit trade as a whole has dropped significantly, the operation cannot be considered to have been a successful one and the tax should be withdrawn forthwith.

In my letter to you of 13th June 1962 explaining the terms of the agreement for the merger, I made reference to the substantial increase in William Crawford's profit in their two previous financial years. I am glad to be able to inform you that Crawfords' sales during the year have increased considerably more than the industry's national average. Their profit margins have been slightly reduced, but the position is being restored in the current year. I am also glad to be able to report that both McVitie & Price and Macfarlane Lang show increases over last year in their sales and profits figures, creating new records in the face of keen competition.

I am pleased to report that D. S. Crawford Limited is, apart from a small holding of preference shares, now a wholly owned subsidiary of United Biscuits. This company has carried on, for a number of years, the business of bakers, confectioners and restaurateurs in Edinburgh and in 1962 it extended its sphere of activity into the Newcastle area where it now has a bakery and some ten retail outlets. Very considerable progress and success has been achieved in the Newcastle district and we look forward to the continuation of this trend. This company provides another outlet for the group's products as well as a valuable diversification of its activities. It has an excellent management and I am confident that there is considerable scope for the further development of its business.

The group profit for the 52 weeks ended 29th December 1962 includes the profit for 48 weeks to that date of William Crawford & Sons and D. S. Crawford. After charging depreciation, directors' remuneration, provision for pensions and auditors' fees, the profit before tax amounted to £3,919,769 as against £2,941,939 in 1961, an increase of £977,830. Of this increase £776,769 was in respect of the additional profit brought into the group by our new associates, William Crawford & Sons and D. S. Crawford. Income tax and profits tax required £2,010,122, leaving after taxation a balance of £1,909,647 (1961 £1,421,185). The preference dividend, less tax, absorbed £36,750 and dividends on preference shares in subsidiaries paid to outside shareholders during the period amounted, less tax, to £11,428. An interim dividend at 6 per cent, less tax, paid in October 1962 on the ordinary share capital of £7,110,136 required £261,297 and your directors recommend that a final dividend on the ordinary share capital be paid at the rate of 10 per cent, less tax, requiring £435,496. The total dividend for the year on the ordinary share capital at the rate of 16 per cent compares with an effective rate of 14½ per cent on the ordinary share capital of £6,000,000 in issue at the end of last year. The balance of unappropriated profit of £1,162,726 (1961 £828,162) has been transferred to revenue reserve.

Looking to the future with confidence, I believe that, with the maintained high quality of your company's products and the further benefits of integration, we can look for an increased share of the markets, both at home and abroad.

Shareholders will appreciate that our activities in 1962 have thrown a considerably increased burden on many members of our staff. The integration of two new companies into the group calls for much hard work from all concerned. I am glad to say that this is being given in the most generous measure. I am sure shareholders will wish to join me in thanking everyone in our group for an excellent year's work.

TRADING SUMMARY

in thousands of pounds	1952	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962*
Turnover	7,500	17,300	18,200	18,500	20,200	21,600	**31,700**
Profit before depreciation and taxation	973	3,062	3,204	3,108	3,576	3,657	**5,039**
Depreciation	178	552	662	648	699	738	**1,132**
Taxation	505	1,329	1,302	1,132	1,439	1,521	**2,010**
Profit after taxation available for appropriation	290	1,181	1,240	1,328	1,438	1,398	**1,897**
Preference dividend	31	34	34	37	37	37	**37**
Profit after preference dividend	259	1,147	1,206	1,291	1,401	1,361	**1,860**
Dividend on ordinary shares	109	294	362	441	496	533	**697**
Profit retained	150	853	826	850	905	828	**1,163**

* The trading summary for the 52 weeks ended 29th December 1962 includes the figures for 48 weeks to that date of William Crawford & Sons Limited and D. S. Crawford Limited, which companies were acquired with effect from the end of January 1962.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretaries, United Biscuits Limited, 12 Hope Street, Edinburgh 2.

Redevelopment of Birmingham—first completed of the new buildings in the Bull Ring is the reinforced concrete St. Martin's House office block and six-storey parking garage

At Redditch, BSA Power Units make a wide range of petrol engines for agricultural and industrial equipment

THE MIDLANDS

(*Continued from page 239*)

Production line for Argosy 660 freighter fuselages at the Baginton factory of Whitworth Gloster

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES GRANTED IN THE MIDLANDS, 1961-62

	No. of Schemes	Total Area m. sq. ft.
1961		
1st quarter	65	1·3
2nd ,, ...	78	1·6
3rd ,, ...	78	1·2
4th ,, ...	59	0·8
1962		
1st quarter	63	1·2
2nd ,, ...	54	0·9
3rd ,, ...	51	1·0
4th ,, ...	61	0·6
	Total No. of Schemes	Total Area
1959	370	7·5 m.
1960	463	10·9 m.
1961	280	4·9 m.
1962	229	3·7 m.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES IN THE MIDLANDS

INDUSTRY GROUP	1961 Males	1961 Females	1961 Total	1951 Males	1951 Females	1951 Total
Engineering and electrical goods ..	211,520	85,280	296,800	165,470	66,070	231,540
Vehicles	182,920	38,840	221,760	166,070	45,160	211,230
Metal goods not elsewhere specified ..	128,420	86,690	215,110	116,200	85,530	201,730
Distributive Trades	99,600	113,180	212,780	76,740	77,640	154,380
Metal manufacture	122,410	24,330	146,740	105,100	20,480	125,580
Construction (building, etc.)	117,440	6,830	124,270	94,830	3,000	97,830
Bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc. ..	49,360	39,370	88,730	52,210	45,990	98,200
Gas, electricity and water	30,580	4,870	35,450	27,720	3,480	31,200
Chemicals and allied industries	20,400	8,720	29,120	17,620	8,250	25,870

These figures, supplied by the Ministry of Labour, are not strictly comparable since changes were made in industrial classification in 1959, but they do offer a fairly correct picture of the general position.

GOOD LIVING *by Ganymede*

The tremendous progress made by British hotels and restaurants in improving the standards of catering during the last decade or so is an accepted fact. It is recognised generally, that in and around London, as well as in many other regions of the country, especially those which are tourist or holiday areas, one can eat as well as in most other countries of Europe. Our restaurateurs are still suffering to some extent from the poor reputation they earned in the past, bad old days. The belief in English cooking being bad is so strong in the minds of many Continental visitors that they are pleasantly surprised when they find this to be a fallacy. A French gourmet, who arrived on his first visit by car to England, expressed great surprise at the fact that his first meal, taken at an hotel in one of our seaside towns, was "quite good!"

I, myself, fell into a similar trap recently, when I had to spend a few days in Birmingham. Without giving the matter too much thought beforehand, I had expected—a kind of gastronomic desert of the bygone days with its Brown Windsor Soup, thin roast meat in watery gravy, bad service of wines and all the other abominations associated with it. My pleasure at finding things to be quite different far outweighs my shame for having had the wrong preconceived ideas. Judging by the restaurants and hotels I had a chance to visit, the Midlands have nothing to be ashamed of, either. The standards of cooking and service, if not always impeccable, compare favourably with those to be found elsewhere in this country or on the Continent.

My first port of call after a fast drive on the M1 was the Albany Hotel in the centre of Birmingham, opened only a few months ago. It is situated in a fast developing quarter of the city, where imposing reconstruction and building in connection with the new Ringway is taking place. When all this work is completed the 13-storey miniature skyscraper of the Albany will stand in the midst of a most impressive complex of modern architecture. Considering its position, purpose, and size (308 beds) this is the best of the new hotels I have visited in London or the provinces. The rooms are well designed in every detail with many bright new ideas, such as an ingenious message system which must be the nearest possible to being foolproof.

The restaurant is also modern in design and the clever use of colours and masses makes it comfortably gay, without being garish. The menu is surprisingly short, with only half-a-dozen specialities added to the basic dishes, but this, no doubt, contributes to the efficient, speedy working of kitchen and service. The hors d'oeuvre was varied, interesting and well prepared. For the main course I chose one of the specialities, "Prime Scotch Rib Steak," which turned out to be an enormous "cut-off-the-joint" of first-quality meat. The wine list is adequate without being complicated, and I chose Château Cissac 1955, a Bourgeois growth of the Médoc, to go with the beef. "Deep Dish Fruit Pie," which is one of the standard puddings on the menu, completed my meal. The was delicious, its pastry exactly as it should be. The service throughout was friendly, unobtrusive, performed courteously without the slightest hitch. Full marks, too, for my breakfast, when I had scrambled eggs, not on the menu, but perfectly made.

The next three places I tried all belong to the Ansell Group, and although they have common features, such as vast, modern pine-panelled banqueting suites, the restaurants are individually run, each with its own very large menu of many classical dishes, the French names often translated into English. At the Park Hall Hotel, which is built round the original structure of a Georgian house near Wolverhampton, one of the house-specialities, Piccata Marsala, was cooked at our table most skilfully by the head waiter. Here, too, the hors d'oeuvres selection was exceptionally good. Of the seven clarets in the wine list, I chose a 1955 Beychevelle (there was nothing of an earlier vintage, as is usual today).

The cocktail bar at the new Albany Hotel in Birmingham

At Penns Hall Hotel near Birmingham the restaurant manager, Mr. John van Delden (left) and his father, Mr. Antoin van Delden, attend to the needs of a couple of guests. The hotel is one of several owned by Ansells Brewery Ltd.

Lunch at The George, an old, but very much modernised and added-to coaching inn at Solihull, included a correct prawn cocktail, and a Tournedot Rossini which was one of the best I had had for a long time. This is not always well done, but at The George it was in every detail according to the book. I was able to choose another good 1955 claret here, a Brane Cantenac this time. In spite of the crowded conditions of Sunday lunch, the service was cool and swift.

If one of the three houses could outshine the other two, I would say it is the Penns Hall Hotel, near Birmingham. Nothing in our dinner could be faulted, and the service was superb under the keen eye of the Maître d'hôtel, Mr. John van Delden. His father, who after a lifetime of working in the big hotels of the world has joined him as a head waiter, looked after us with great charm and concern. No wonder we had good service, for between them, father and son have nearly 90 years' restaurant experience. We had melon, beautifully prepared, a delicious Caneton à l'Orange, and fresh asparagus. The wine list is longer here, of the 12 clarets, five are chateau bottled, but, alas, no older vintages than 1957, except for a 1954 Cheval Blanc. The 1957 Rausan Ségla I chose was pleasantly full, typical of its year, and would get still better.

The large classical menu in French and English is also in evidence at The Belfry, a smart country restaurant and banqueting centre owned and managed by Mr. Jimmy Byrnes, who was responsible for another excellent eating place, the Saxon Hall, at Guy's Cliffe. The Belfry is near Sutton Coldfield, on the Lichfield (A446) road at Wishaw, surrounded by magnificent grounds and has a gigantic car park. The Pâté du Chef was really home made and good, the traditional steak and kidney pie was flawless, the cheeseboard appetising and there was a good selection of fresh fruit. What more can one ask for ?

The Candlelight Room at the Belfry Hotel, Wishaw, not far from Sutton Coldfield

The restaurant at the George Hotel, Solihull, run by the Solihull Catering Co. Ltd.

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MOTORING

THE IMP A BIG SELLER?

Details of the new Hillman and other topics

By **COURTENAY EDWARDS**

When I flew to Scotland last week for the launching of the new rear-engined Hillman Imp and the opening by the Duke of Edinburgh of the Linwood factory in which they are being built, production had already reached close on 1,000 a week. Introduction of this 875 c.c. economy saloon, with its aluminium engine set at an angle at the back, is an historic event, not only for the Rootes Group—whose main factories are at Coventry—but for the British motor industry as a whole. For it is Scotland's first car for more than 30 years and the first rear-engined model ever to go into production on a large scale in Britain.

Lunching recently with Mr. Peter Ware, Rootes' chief executive engineer, after road testing the Imp in Warwickshire and the Cotswolds, I learned from the man chiefly responsible for the car's design why the engine was put at the back in spite of the outstanding success of the front-wheel-drive BMC Minis. For one thing, the Imp has been under development as a rear-engined car for 5½ years, after a deal of work on an earlier rear-engined, twin-cylinder design, which was scrapped. "More important," said Mr. Ware, "are the obvious advantages of putting the engine at the back in a car of this size. It gives almost ideal weight distribution, good traction on slippery roads and gradients, even distribution of braking power between front and rear wheels, light, precise steering and freedom from the drive shaft problems experienced when the power is taken through the steering wheels."

I like the four-seat, two-door, drum-braked Imp very much and believe it will be a big seller. Its road-holding is superb, there is a first-class all-synchromesh four-speed gearbox, and the over-steer associated with most rear-engined cars has been designed right out of it.

It costs £508 (£60 more than the cheapest version of the Mini) or £532 in de luxe trim. The overhead-camshaft engine, which owes a lot to Coventry-Climax racing experience, gives a top speed of 75 m.p.h. and takes the Imp to 50 in 15 seconds. Petrol mileage is between 40 and 45 to the gallon. I like the upward-hinging rear window and folding back seat; the winding windows and roomy door pockets; automatic choke; and headlamp flasher.

Scientists at the Rubber and Plastics Research Association establishment at Shawbury, near Shrewsbury (Shropshire) claim to have invented a damper incorporating an entirely new method of shock absorption which utilises energy otherwise lost when rubber is deformed. "It is still in an early stage of development" I was told by a spokesman for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research "but potentially its adoption by industry offers motorists a simple system of damping at low cost and requiring very little maintenance."

The team of physicists and engineers responsible for this new type of shock absorber consists of Messrs. R. H. Norman, A. R. Payne and W. G. Newell. The principle of the new damper is described as "clear and uncomplicated" and the claim is made that it is likely to show "considerable technical and economic advantages over normal hydraulic systems." The energy produced by a springing jolt is dissipated by making it deform a pad of high hysteresis or "cling" rubber of the kind used in the latest anti-skid tyres. Tests with a popular make of car at the Motor Industry Research Association's proving ground at Nuneaton have shown, it is claimed, that even the prototype design compares well in performance with hydraulic systems which have been under development for many years.

The French Facel-Vega organisation has celebrated its tenth anniversary and taken on a new lease of life by announcing a new model which will appeal to all true connoisseurs of thoroughbred motoring. It is the Facel 111, which incorporates engineering features from France, Britain and Sweden. It is powered by the 1,780 c.c. Volvo four-cylinder engine with five-bearing crankshaft and uses the four-speed Volvo all-synchromesh gearbox. From Britain it gets its Dunlop disc brakes, its S.U. carburettors and its Laycock overdrive (operating on top gear to give a total of five ratios).

The Facel 111 is available in two versions: as a two-three seater cabriolet or as a four-seater coupé. It is an addition to the Facel range and the Facel 11, with its V-8 Chrysler engine and the 1,646 c.c. Facellia, with its Facel-Vega engine, will continue in production. The body dimensions are the same as those of the Facellia but the styling is based on that of the Facel 11, the design of the grille and rear end bearing a strong family resemblance.

With the power to accelerate from a standstill to just over 60 miles an hour in 12·9 seconds and with a top speed around the 110 m.p.h. mark the new French aristocrat will appeal in many countries to sophisticated motorists who want a lively performance as well as good looks, comfort and sound engineering. On the convertible model a hard-top is offered as an optional extra. Other accessories available include a racing-type steering wheel, fitted suit-cases and aluminium-rimmed road wheels. In Paris the cheaper convertible costs £1,200. In Britain the price is expected to be considerably more than £2,000.

When you have read a book like *Ford Quality*, just published by Ford of Britain, you can't help wondering why any motorist can ever have the temerity to complain about the finish of his new Ford or even to complain that a door handle has come off. And then you remember the quote attributed to the Manager of the Manufacturing Staff. "Of course we're still short of perfection," he admits. "There's probably more than a million things to be done to the components of a car before they become a car. You can sit back and analyse all our machines, our testing equipment, our testing procedures and our inspectors; and some error will occasionally still creep through. Because, although we have harnessed machines and measuring equipment and brought precision into all our thoughts and actions there is still no machine that will do the whole job for you."

Ford Quality makes it clear, however, that Ford does everything humanly possible to ensure a reliable product. Take SQAP for instance. SQAP is the firm's Supplier Quality Assurance Programme. Under it Ford experts visit every one of the 1,500 British firms that supply Ford with bought-out components—tyres, speedometers, heaters, carburettors and the like—at a cost to Ford of £140,000,000 p.a.

"How smooth is smooth?" the book asks in referring to the latest technical developments in micro-geometry. "Or, for that matter, how round is round? Incredible standards of accuracy are involved." And we are told that roundness is measured to within ten millionths of an inch, smoothness to six millionths—"something like 500 times finer than a human hair."

Briefly. . . . A model car museum recently opened at a former coaching inn dating from the sixteenth century at 60 Ely Street, Stratford-on-Avon, contains more than 3,600 small-scale models collected by Mr. Tibor Reich and his two sons Anthony and Sanyi. . . . The 1963 edition of the *Guide des Relais Routiers* (17s., 178 Fleet Street, E.C.4.) contains the names and locations of 4,500 French hotels and restaurants patronised by the discriminating French lorry drivers where good meals, including wine, can be had for 8s. 6d. . . .

Insulex of 67 Westbourne Grove, W.2, have produced a new version of their insulated picnic bag which keeps food cold for up to eight hours. It has a gay nautical print design and is offered in two sizes: "handy" at 29s. 11d.; and "family" at 39s. 9d. . . . The Ship Hotel, Alveston, 11 miles north of Bristol on A38, an old coaching inn, has been modernised by Trust Houses to cater for motorists. It has accommodation for 100 people, with a carport for each of 50 bedrooms and meals are served until 11 p.m. . . . The Townsend Car Ferry service has published a useful guide to its organisation and its motor vessel *Free Enterprise*. It contains much useful information for motorists taking their cars abroad.

The Rootes Group's new Hillman Imp, a rear-engined economy saloon

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IN QUEST OF GOOD HOTELS

ADVICE BY ASHLEY COURTENAY

Letters, accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope for reply, should be addressed to him c/o The Editor, THE SPHERE, *Ingram House, 13-15, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.*

SWIMMING POOLS are becoming a popular feature with hotels catering for family holidays and, when you come to think of it, what a sensible amenity to provide.

In our fickle climate sea and river are often too cold and windy to enjoy the water. Beaches, not only in Britain, but internationally, are suffering from sporadic epidemics of oil pollution, and, when it is hot and sunny, there is little leg room to swim and not much turning space for sunbathing.

So, for the benefit of readers who may be seeking an hotel where swimming is provided in the hotel grounds, the following digest may prove useful.

Kent—Birchington-on-Sea, *Beresford Hotel.* Not only a four-star hotel but, as it would be termed in Spain, *luxe.* Everything laid on for family holidays; the sea, sands, a private promenade and, adjacent to the cocktail bar, one of the latest type swimming pools—heated and sheltered from the wind. The Beresford has an excellent wing of ground floor bedrooms with bathrooms, etc., en suite.

Surrey—Near Weybridge, *Oatlands Park Hotel.* This, one of the best family hotels in Britain for a country holiday, was a pioneer of the swimming pool idea, and is still a model as regards lay-out. Filtrated and surrounded by grass lawns for sunbathing, it is a free amenity to hotel residents, as is golf, squash, tennis, bowls and croquet.

Near Dorking—*Burford Bridge Hotel.* When a heat-wave assails you who work and perhaps reside in London, bear in mind this picturesquely site Trust House at the foot of Box Hill, just off the London/Worthing road.

ussex, Haywards Heath—*The Birch Hotel.* Here will be found an oval swi ming pool, with the contour of the South Downs to gaze on while drying off. If your swim has created an appetite, the table d'hôte and *à la carte* men at *The Birch* offer food for thought and satisfaction.

I mpshire, Bournemouth—*Linden Hall Hotel* has the finest indoor heat swimming pool on the South Coast and possibly in Britain. With an i tructor in attendance throughout the year, many a youngster has learn to swim here outside the normal holiday months. With everything laid for family pleasure, Linden Hall is an all-the-year-round holiday reso n itself.

J ey, Channel Islands—*St. Brelade's Bay Hotel.* You might not think that hotel on the edge of such perfect sands needed a swimming pool. On t contrary, this new enterprise of the Colley family will be received with clamation, for it will provide opportunities for swimming before the sea v ms up, it will take care of days when the wind is a spoil-sport and, impo ntly, in the height of the holiday season it will provide privacy and socia njoyment for the hotel residents.

W canton, Somerset—*Holbrook House Hotel.* This charming country house otel has for years built up a triple goodwill among (1) motorists going to ar from their holiday bases in and around Bournemouth, the Dorset Coast evon and Cornwall; (2) family holiday parties who prefer the country-side t he seaboard, and (3) overseas and other visitors who find *Holbrook Hous* n excellent centre for home-hunting. Ever looking ahead and optim ically anticipating a hot summer (one is overdue) the owners, Mr. and M . Taylor, have constructed a fully equipped swimming pool which, weath permitting, will entice visitors from Whitsun onwards.

De n. Hotel swimming pools are not so numerous as one would expect, yet th are some noticeable examples.

To ay—*The Imperial.* Trust Michael Chapman to be in the van of enterp e! A year or so back, he and his co-directors decided to build a pool o he terrace and so provide a bathing substitute for those who did not relish e trek back from their private sea bathing cove. Given a fine summe it may well prove yet another social background to *The Imperial's* many tractions.

Tor ay—*The Toorak Hotel.* An admirable family holiday hotel for those w o cannot afford and have no inclination for the top price standards. The co struction of a swimming pool in a delightful sheltered garden setting has pro ed a most happy amenity. Torquay, when the tide is at the flood, has a li ited amount of beach space, so *Toorak* visitors can swim, sunbathe, and sip ooling drinks aloof from the holiday crowd.

Hayl r—*The Moorland Hotel.* A Trust House, with a small plunge pool, an asset on a hot day after riding, golfing or walking on Dartmoor.

Yelverton—*Moorland Links Hotel* (at the Plymouth end of Dartmoor). This hotel has a good-sized pool.

Now for others. *Raven Hall Hotel* at Ravenscar, on the cliff between Scarborough and Whitby, has one of the most well equipped swimming pools in the country. With thick glass screens to let in the sun and exclude the wind, it is a major attraction of this popular family holiday hotel.

And how would you like to bathe outdoors with snow on the ground around Christmas time? Well, you can at *The New Bath Hotel,* Matlock Bath Spa in Derbyshire, for the water is naturally heated by mysterious underground elements. The same hotel has a small indoor pool for those who cannot face up to the garden path when the temperature is below freezing.

In East Anglia the *Blakeney Hotel* at Blakeney is one of those few unspoilt holiday spots in Britain. A sailing and golfing centre, the hotel has its own outdoor pool tucked discreetly away in the garden.

Swimming at a country house hotel is always an added attraction. Note then, *Weston Manor Hotel* at Weston-on-the-Green, outside Oxford, now owned incidentally by Mr. A. F. Price, late of the *Old Bridge Hotel,* Huntingdon, and whose brother runs the *Hare and Hounds Hotel* at Westonbirt in Gloucestershire. Here the outdoor pool goes well with the squash and tennis also available at *Weston Manor.*

Scotland has two hotels owned by British Transport Hotel Services with indoor pools. The one at *Turnberry* has a resident instructor, who is kept busy by the children during the summer months. That at *Gleneagles Hotel* is very popular with the golfers who enjoy a swim after an energetic round on one of the three golf courses.

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TRADITION IN SCHWEPPSHIRE

3: OLD CUSTOMS

Schweppshire never forgets its tradition of traditions, particularly at the time of year when we broadcast a welcome to tourists (see our *Inheriting the Heritage*, Society of Sudan Travel Agents, distrbtd.). At the same time Schweppshire is modern in spirit and progressive in techniques. Everybody will admire our really quite tall new sky-scraper beside the river—and how typically Schweppish is the sight of the old flower sellers seated on the steps round the base. Steel foundries are now to be fully automated but the human element is retained in the ceremony, performed by Beefeaters on alternate Tuesdays, of the Beating of the Bounds. The Friday morning wage grab is modern in spirit: but the crime is given colour as a spectacle, by the use of a gilt coach and horses to ram the wage van, with bandit outriders in eighteenth century dress. The Stock Exchange has been given a new building at last; but we can still see the bank rate piped in and the news is still broadcast in Old Morse. If a broker is "hammered" a Scots posse marches in with reversed bagpipes.

This month, don't fail to see the opening of Schwapping Underpass, a year or two behind schedule, but the workers will be allowed to see Ermyne, star of "Golly She's a Girl", cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony. But it is Dame Edith who will be breaking a bottle of still champagne over the caisson of the new denudation dock to be used for ship-breaking. Visitors from the South will enjoy the ritual of the Extinguishing of Central Heating and are reminded that the Ceremony of the Keys always accompanies the closure, at 8.10 p.m., of hotel dining rooms by waiters and cash desk girls in full evening dress.

Written by Stephen Potter; designed by George Him

SCHWEPPERVESCENCE LASTS THE WHOLE DRINK THROUGH